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バタフライ

butterfly

2

相川有

Yu Aikawa

BIRZ

BIRZ

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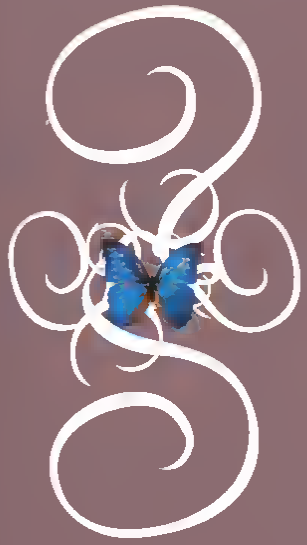

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THE PLOT OF THE STORY SO FAR...

EVER SINCE ISHIGAWA GINJI (AGE 17) WITNESSED HIS BROTHER'S SUICIDE, HE HAS BECOME VERY SENSITIVE TOWARDS OCCULT STUFF. EVEN THOUGH HIS FRIEND, HATAKEYAMA, INTRODUCED HIM TO A LOT OF GIRLS, HE CAN NEVER GO ALONG WITH THOSE WHO LOVE FORTUNE TELLING, HORROR MOVIES, OR LIKING OCCULT STUFF. DISAPPOINTED, THE MOST RECENT GIRL WHO HATAKEYAMA INTRODUCED TO HIM IS TAKAMATSU NACHI. THE TRUTH IS, SHE'S ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAD WITNESSED THE CAUSE FOR THE SUICIDE OF GINJI'S BROTHER. GINJI AND NACHI WERE IN A GOOD MOOD INSIDE THE HAUNTED HOUSE WHEN THEY HEARD A GHOST TELL THEM THE LINE 'CURSE YOU TO DEATH,' WHICH MADE GINJI GO NUTS AND HIT THE GHOST. GINJI MUST PAY IN COMPENSATION TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

AT THIS MOMENT, A MYSTERIOUS, PRETTY GIRL SHOWED UP IN FRONT OF GINJI AND WHISPERED TO HIM, "THE TWO OF US SHALL GO... AND KILL ALL THE GHOST IN THIS WORLD." THE GIRL'S NAME IS AGEHA. SHE'S AN ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL STUDENT EXORCIST, PERFORMING HER JOB OF EXORCISMS NATIONWIDE, AND HAS HIRED GINJI AS HER PARTNER.

TO PAY OFF HIS LOAN, GINJI BARELY GIVES HER A HAND. WHEN GINJI QUESTIONED HIS DOUBTS OVER HER EXORCISMS, AGEHA REPLIED DIRECTLY, "THAT GHOST WAS A FAKE." ACTUALLY, SHE READS THE MINDS OF THE CONCERNED PARTY (THE CLIENTS' MINDS, INCLUDING GINJI'S) AND THEN TRANSMITS A STRONG IMAGE TO THE PEOPLE AROUND HER. SO TO SAY, SHE LETS EVERYONE SEES ILLUSIONS IN A CERTAIN FORM. AFTER THAT, GINJI DIDN'T WANT GET INVOLVED WITH OCCULT-RELATED MATTERS AND REFUSED TO HELP AGEHA, YET UNDER AGEHA'S APPEASEMENT, GINJI HAS ONCE AGAIN HELPED HER OUT.

AS GINJI GIVES AGEHA A HAND IN EXORCISM RELUCTANTLY, HE'S GETTING GRADUALLY CLOSER TO THE TRUTH BEHIND HIS BROTHER'S SUICIDE...

Ishigawa Ginji

DESPISES THE OCCULT BUT AGEHA THINKS HIGHLY OF HIS SPECIAL ABILITY HE HELPS OUT AGEHA IN HER WORK, UNWILLINGLY

Agcha

AN EXORCIST ALSO A PRETTY-LOOKING ELEMENTARY STUDENT THAT USES HER SPECIAL ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN TRADES DESPITE THE OUTER APPEARANCE, AGEHA IS ACTUALLY A BOY

Hatakcyama

GINJI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND & CLASSMATE INTRODUCED NACHI TO GINJI ACTUALLY, HE'S ALSO INDEBTED TO GINJI

Takamatsu Nachi

THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WHOM HATAKEYAMA INTRODUCED TO GINJI BECAUSE SHE WITNESSED THE INCIDENT REGARDING GINJI'S BROTHER, SHE'S INDEBTED TO GINJI

バタフライ

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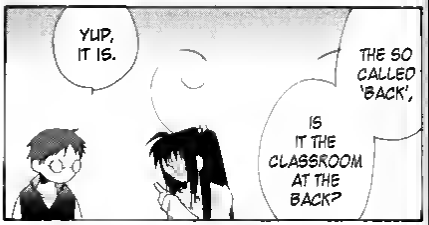
CHAPTER 10:
THE HOLE ON THE WALL (1)

SFX: THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS

WHOEVER THAT IS
PLEASE GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT...!!
ガラガラ
whisper whisper
NOBODY STOOD UP, SENSEI.
THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS CAME FROM THE NEXT ROOM, HUH.
IT'S QUITE NOISY TODAY.


YUP, IT IS.
THE SO CALLED 'BACK',
IS IT THE CLASSROOM AT THE BACK?

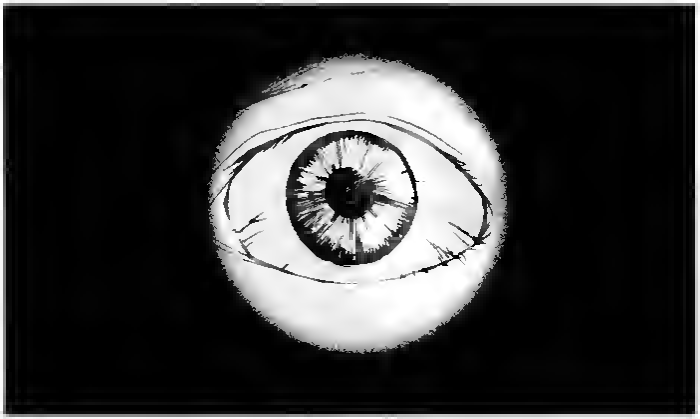
CLASS 3, THE ONE NEXT -DOOR?
CLASS 3 IS HAVING P.E NOW, RIGHT?
BUT I HEARD THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS FROM BEHIND ME!
SO IT'S FROM THE B..CK

BUT IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, WHAT'S AT THE BACK IS AN EMPTY CLASSROOM, ISN'T IT?
SO YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT~~
AGEHA -CHAN, YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL FOR A LONG TIME~~

YOU'RE NOT SAYING IT'S THAT SILLY RUMOR AGAIN . ?
THERE'S SOMEONE OPPOSITE THE HOLE ON THE WALL OR SOMETHING ...

SENSEI, TAKE A PEEK AT THE BACK!
YOU'LL KNOW WE AREN'T LYING...
TAKE A PEEK?

IT'S TRUE!
THERE'S A HOLE ON THE BOARD BEHIND THERE.
WHO DRILLED A HOLE HERE-
JUST TAKE A PEEK!
I BET YOU'LL MEET HIM, TOO
WHO WILL I MEET...



KYAAA
!
ガタッ!!

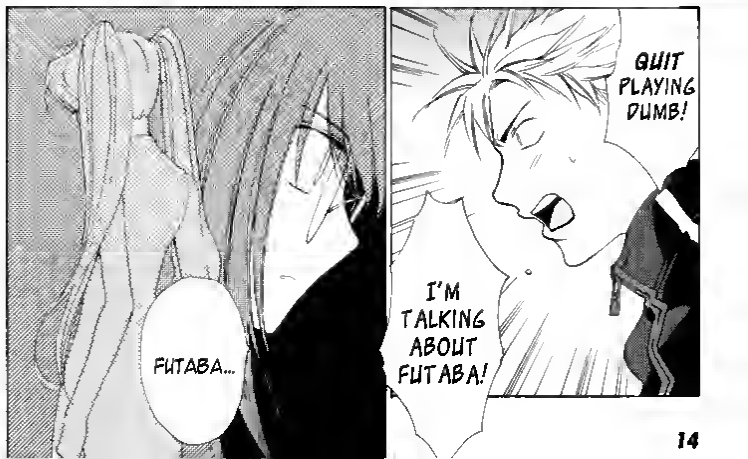
KRA
WHO GOES THERE!?
I KNOW THIS IS A PRANK!!
PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR OWN CLASS-ROOM!!
SO IT'S A PRANK.
IT'S SURE IS WELL-DONE ...
THAT'S NO PRANK
SOMETHING HAS LIVED IN THE EMPTY CLASSROOM BACK THERE.
Tee hee~
SINCE THE TIME A DISGUSTING CROSS-DRESSER REFUSED TO COME TO SCHOOL,
Ha ha
DON! DON!
HEY!!
COME OUT!!
WHAT'S WITH THE 'AGEHA -CHAN'!
YOU THINK IT'S FINE TO LET THAT SICKO COME TO SCHOOL!
AGEHA -CHAN LOOKS GOOD COSPLAY -ING!
Aren't you guys just whining because you aren't good at cosplay?!
Shut up, ugly women
The girls got me covered, but things got heated up

NOBODY
DID HE HIDE ...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS EMPTY CLASS -ROOM
SFX: THE SOUND OF THE DOOR OPENING
HAS BEEN LOCKED UP FOR QUITE A LONG TIME NOW...
That scar thing is staring back
BYE BYE, AGEHA -CHAN
学
校
DING DONG DING DONG
YOU GOTTA COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AS WELL, OKAY?

.....
NOW...
I WAS SURE I SENSED SOMEONE THERE JUST NOW...
THAT'S NOT A HUMAN, EITHER..
IT FELT AS IF IT WAS A GHOST..
... IT'S UNLIKELY.
I DON'T REMEMBER CREATING A GHOST HERE
HEY, TRANS-VESTITE!

JUST HIDE AT HOME
YOU LEFT THIS SCHOOL FOR 'HER'!
YOU FINALLY SHOW YOUR FACE IN SCHOOL, HUH
..UHM. WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN..
If I don't figure out his name soon he'll bug me
'HER'?*
Girl! Who does this guy resemble

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: * 'Futaba' (ふたば) is an informal or rather rude way of referring to someone 'that dude', 'him', 'her' & Anji used to address Ashia by that



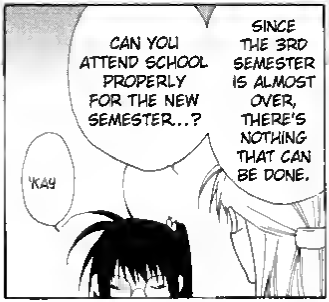
FUTABA SAID IT BEFORE SHE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL LAST FALL!
THAT SHE COULDN'T STAND BEING HERE ANYMORE BECAUSE SHE WAS REJECTED BY YOU!
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A LINE FROM A ROMANCE DRAMA..
sigh
WHETHER I DID OR DIDN'T REJECT HER,
FUTABA IS JUST MY COUSIN.
AS FOR THE SCHOOL TRANSFER, SHE ONLY RETURNED TO HER HOMETOWN IN KANSAI
WHAT WAS THAT?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE BAD THINGS YOU DID TO FUTABA AT ALL!?
ALTHOUGH I FORGOT YOUR NAME,
YOU LIKE FUTABA, DON'T YOU?

WHY YOU!!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT GENDER YOU WANNA BE AND YOU THINK YOU KNOW ME!?
カリ
タカリ
タ
YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES ....!!
HE GETS THIS MAD WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE..
but his behavior is that of a brat
RECENT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ARE PRECOCIOUS, AREN'T THEY
Nhm

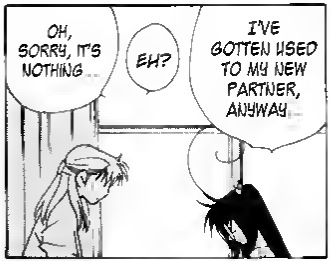
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!?
NOTHING
WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT WHAT YOUR GENDER IS?
I SERIOUSLY DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE YOU ARE.

...HEH
Do you know how to do that..?
DAMN YOU-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

INOUE-SENSEI
Tch,
This is exhausting...
OH, FOR GOOD-NESS SAKE ...
YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME 5TH GRADE STUDENTS...
can't you be composed?
WILL I BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO 5TH GRADE?
HMM... I'VE JUST DISCUSSED WITH THE TEACHERS ABOUT IT
YOU DIDN'T ATTEND MOST OF YOUR CLASSES DURING THE WINTER
IS IT RELATED TO FUTABA'S SCHOOL TRANSFER?
YOU TWO WERE IN A GOOD RELATIONSHIP LIKE A PAIR OF TWINS, WEREN'T YOU.
EH...
FUTABA ...


SINCE THE 3RD SEMESTER IS ALMOST OVER, THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE.
CAN YOU ATTEND SCHOOL PROPERLY FOR THE NEW SEMESTER...?
'KAY

THIS HAS ...NOTHING TO DO WITH FUTABA.
I HATE YOU, AGEHA...!!
I WANTED TO STAY WITH ...YOU!!


I'VE GOTTEN USED TO MY NEW PARTNER, ANYWAY...
EH?
OH, SORRY, IT'S NOTHING...

THEN WHY...?
YOU ASK WHY...
I ONLY OWN GIRLS CLOTHES

WELL, YOUR EXAM RESULTS ARE GOOD...
AND THEN...

YOUR DRESS-UP.
NOPE. I HAVE NO PREFER-ENCE OF CLOTHING
DO YOU HATE WEARING BOYS' CLOTHES?

I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
I'LL VISIT YOUR PARENTS ...
SFX BANGING SOUNDS
YOU WENT TO MEET TAKAMATSU NACHI?
THAT'S GOOD, BUT DID YOU HAVE TO FORCE YOUR WAY INTO THE SCHOOL?
I WENT TO ASK HER ABOUT THE INCIDENT CAUSED BY MY BROTHER.

I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND THOUGH...
SHE SAID WHEN THE ACCIDENT TOOK PLACE MY BROTHER WAS SURROUNDED BY HIS MANY CLASSMATES.
THAT... THAT GIRL JUST JUMPED INTO...
A GROUP OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHERE YOUR BROTHER WAS...
NO WAY...
WHICH MEANS YOUR BROTHER PUSHED THE GIRL DOWN THE RAILWAY RIGHT IN FRONT THE VIEWS OF HIS CLASSMATES?
WAS IT HER BEING PUSHED DOWN ...?
ACCORD -ING TO TAKAMATSU ...

AT FIRST, THEY WERE JUST KIDDING AROUND.
This is absurd
BECAUSE THEY FOUND IT AMUSING THAT A WEAK GIRL RUSHED INTO THEM.
NEXT, THEY STARTED PUSHING HER AROUND AMONG THE FRIENDS.
HOW DID THE GIRL FALL DOWN TO THE RAILWAY RIGHT AFTER THAT? TAKAMATSU SAID SHE DIDN'T SEE IT TO THE END, SO SHE ISN'T SURE...
BUT IF THIS IS WHAT HAPPEN-ED,
BRAAP
THEN YOUR BROTHER MIGHT NOT BE THE LAST ONE WHO PUSHED THE GIRL DOWN THE RAILWAY..
NO OTHER PEOPLE AROUND THERE SAW IT...?
SORRY, JUST A MINUTE.

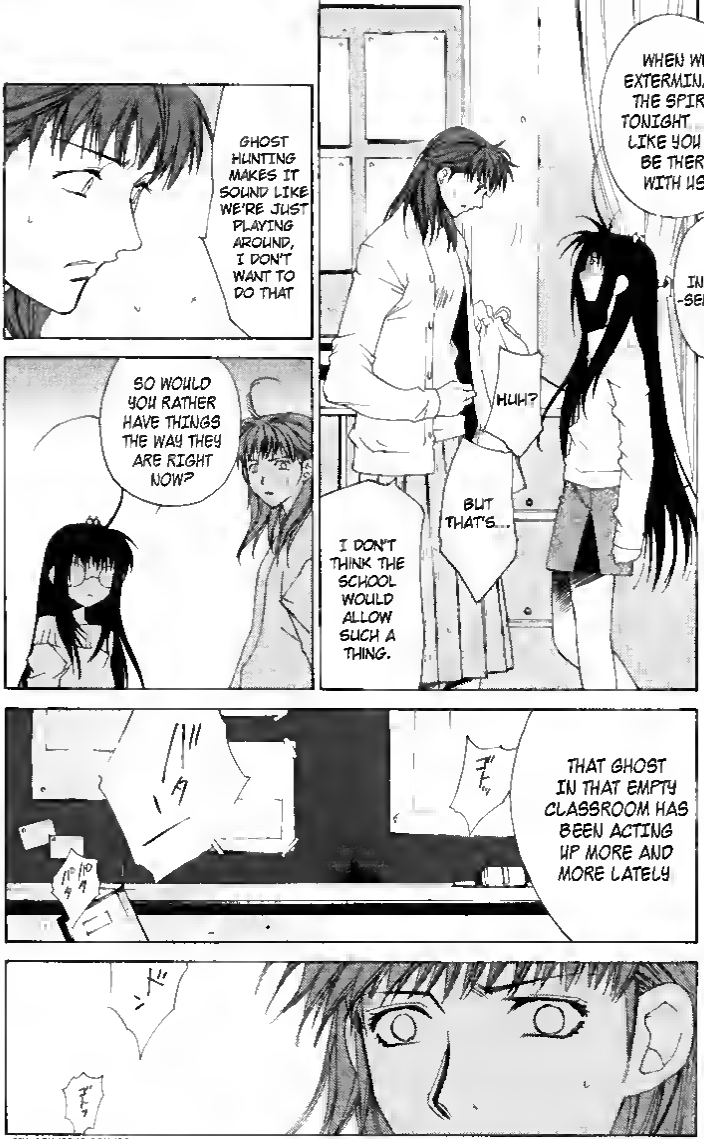
WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL! IT'S YOU!
HUH? I'M BUSY NOW!
I don't know what he said but he's busy

A REAL GHOST HAS SHOWN UP.

I'M TELL -ING YOU...
ARE YOU SURE YOU AREN'T HEARING THINGS? MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EARS.
WHAT?
THAT CLASSROOM IS EMPTY, BUT I CAN HEAR FOOTSTEPS AND NOISES COMING FROM IT.
A REAL GHOST HAS APPEAR -ED...

SHUDDUP! YOU NEED TO GO AND HAVE YOUR EARS EXAMINED!
YOU HEAR ME!? EXAMINED!!
Hey where are you going? Hmmmmm will begin soon
You have to come back here by lunch

IS THAT THE FRIEND OF YOURS WHO HELPS YOU EXTERMINATE SPIRITS...?
HE'LL BE HERE SOON
I'M SURE HE KNOWS HOW TO GET HERE
His school is nearby
I'M SURE THAT IT'S JUST SOME-ONE'S PRANK
AH, HE'S HERE
HE GRADUATED FROM THIS SCHOOL
YOU KNOW... AS YOUR TEACHER
I HAVE TO TELL YOU I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S A GHOST IN THAT CLASSROOM...
GINJI! UP HERE!
THERE YOU ARE!
YOU DAMN LIAR-!


WHEN WE EXTERMINATE THE SPIRIT TONIGHT, I'D LIKE YOU TO BE THERE WITH US, INOUE-SENSEI
HUH?
BUT THAT'S...
I DON'T THINK THE SCHOOL WOULD ALLOW SUCH A THING.
GHOST HUNTING MAKES IT SOUND LIKE WE'RE JUST PLAYING AROUND, I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT
SO WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE RIGHT NOW?
THAT GHOST IN THAT EMPTY CLASSROOM HAS BEEN ACTING UP MORE AND MORE LATELY
SPX POUNDING SOUNDS

HEY, DAMMIT! DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID!?
THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE A REAL GHOST-!
THIS... IS YOUR FRIEND?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, INOUE-SENSEI?
FACULTY ROOM
OH... UM,
I JUST..
I WAS THINKING OF BORROWING THE KEY TO THAT EMPTY CLASSROOM ON THE 3RD FLOOR.
OH, ISN'T THAT CLASSROOM NEXT TO YOURS?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

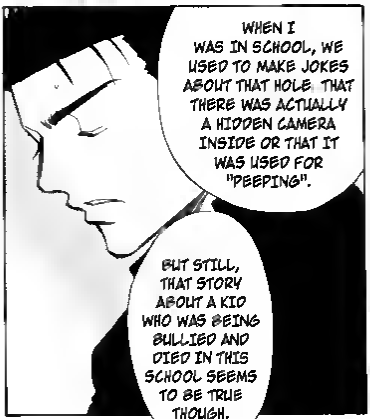
NO, IT'S JUST...
MY STUDENTS HAVE BEEN REAL DISTRACTED LATELY..
THEY THINK THAT IN THE EMPTY CLASSROOM THERE'S A...
AHH, YOU MEAN THOSE GHOST STORIES, RIGHT?
THAT YOU CAN SEE SOMETHING IF YOU LOOK THROUGH THAT HOLE IN THE WALL?
YOU KNEW ABOUT IT?
DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN THOSE SILLY STORIES THOSE KIDS MAKE UP?
A ha ha
OF COURSE I DON'T.
IT'S JUST THAT...
I'M SURE SOME STUDENT IS USING THOSE RUMORS TO PLAY PRANKS ON THE OTHERS, SO, I WANT TO SEE IF I CAN CATCH THEM IN THE ACT.
I SEE. THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
BUT I WONDER HOW OUR STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT SUCH AN OLD GHOST STORY ABOUT OUR SCHOOL.
OLD..?

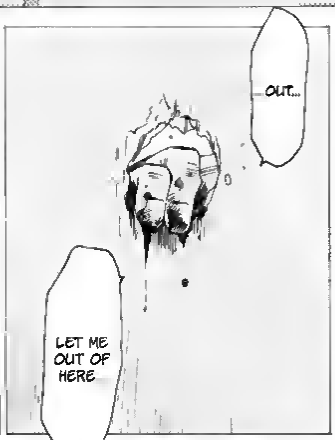
I THINK IT WAS ALMOST 20 YEARS AGO...
THERE WAS A STUDENT WHO WAS BEING BULLIED AND DIED HERE IN THE SCHOOL.
IT BECAME A PRETTY POPULAR GHOST STORY AT THE TIME.
YOU KNOW, BACK WHEN I WAS GOING TO SCHOOL HERE,
THERE WAS A BATHROOM STALL THAT HAD BEEN SEALED, BUT NO ONE NOTICED THAT A STUDENT HAD BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE AND SUMMER VACATION CAME AROUND...
THE FAMILY OF THAT STUDENT FILED A MISSING PERSON REPORT, AND FRANTICALLY SEARCHED AROUND THE AREA SURROUND -ING THE SCHOOL. OF COURSE, THEY COULDN'T FIND HIM...

JUST LISTEN, THERE'S MORE TO IT. ONE DAY, A STUDENT WHO WAS USING THE STALL RIGHT BESIDE IT
NOTICED THAT ON THE WALL FACING THE SIDE OF THE SEALED STALL, THERE WAS A SMALL HOLE..
ㅎㅎㅎㅎ
ㅎㅎㅎㅎㅎㅎㅎ!

SO WHEN THE NEW SEMESTER CAME AROUND, THEY FOUND HIS BODY SHRIVELED UP INSIDE THAT SEALED BATHROOM STALL..
WAIT, THAT STORY IS SO OBVIOUSLY FAKE IT'S LAME.
I mean there's faculty and janitors coming in and out of the building during summer break.
AND WHY IS IT IN THOSE KIND OF STORIES THEY NEVER FIND A DECOMPOSING BODY, BUT ONLY SHRIVELED UP ONES, HUH..?

SEX SCRATCHES NO 565

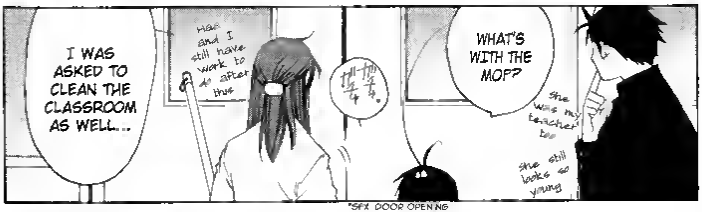

WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, WE USED TO MAKE JOKES ABOUT THAT HOLE. THAT THERE WAS ACTUALLY A HIDDEN CAMERA INSIDE OR THAT IT WAS USED FOR "PEEPING".
BUT STILL, THAT STORY ABOUT A KID WHO WAS BEING BULLIED AND DIED IN THIS SCHOOL SEEMS TO BE TRUE THOUGH.



I GUESS EVEN YOU ENJOYED GHOST STORIES WHEN YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL, GINJI
GAHHH!!
BECAUSE OF YOU I STARTED GOING OFF ABOUT GHOST STORIES!

DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD ABOUT IT!!
SO YOUR OCCULT ALLERGY STARTED AFTER YOUR BROTHER DIED THEN ?
SHUT UP.

NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'M GONNA GO HOME NOW...
BESIDES, THE WHOLE TIME THAT I'VE BEEN HERE, I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING.
I TOLD YOU THAT "REAL GHOST" STUFF WAS A LOAD OF CRAP.
AGEHA -KUN!

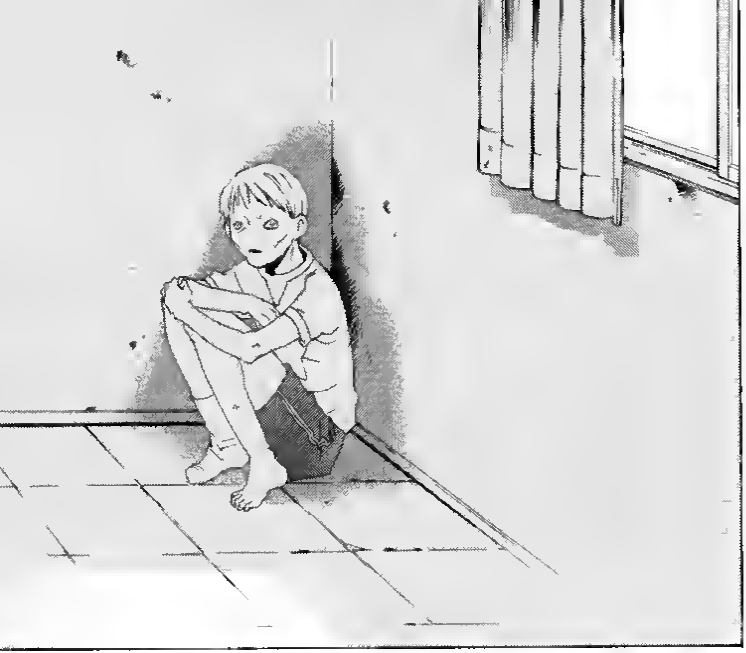

I WAS ASKED TO CLEAN THE CLASSROOM AS WELL...
Hah... and I still have work to do after this.
WHAT'S WITH THE MOP?
She was my teacher, but
she still looks so young

*SFX: DOOR OPENING

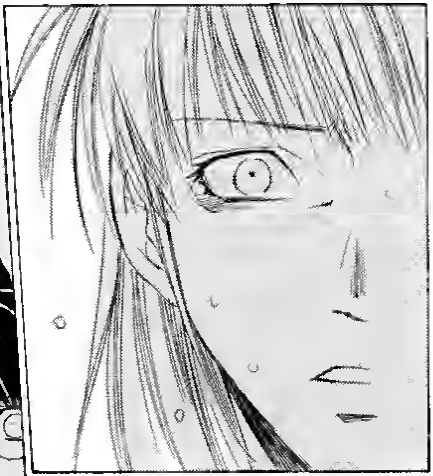
SFX: DOORS SLIDING OPEN

YOU HELP TOO, GINJI!
Yeah though I always skipped out when it was my turn clean.
WHY THE HELL DO I HAVE TO HELP YOU CLEAN...?
SEE? I TOLD YOU THERE WASN'T ANYTHING IN HERE.
I THINK THAT'S THE PROBLEM. THERE ISN'T ANYTHING IN HERE.
SFX: COUGH COUGH
BECAUSE THAT MEANS THAT IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOT A PRANK
WHY?
IF IT WAS HERE, WOULDN'T THERE BE SOME KIND OF DEVICE HERE MAKING THOSE NOISES?
I DON'T SEE THAT KIND OF "PROOF" ANYWHERE.
ALSO ..

THE ONLY FOOTPRINTS THAT I SEE IN HERE ARE THE ONES WE MADE.
THE DUST PILED UP IN HERE IS PROOF THAT NO ONE'S COME IN HERE IN A LONG TIME.
AND SO WHAT?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT~? HOW IS IT THAT WE'VE BEEN HEARING ALL THOSE NOISES AND FOOTSTEPS WITH NOTHING HERE?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, IT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE HEARING PROBLEMS
SFX: THE SOUNDS OF THE WINDOWS OPENING
SFX: SOUND OF THE MOP HITTING THE FLOOR
INOUE -SENSEI?



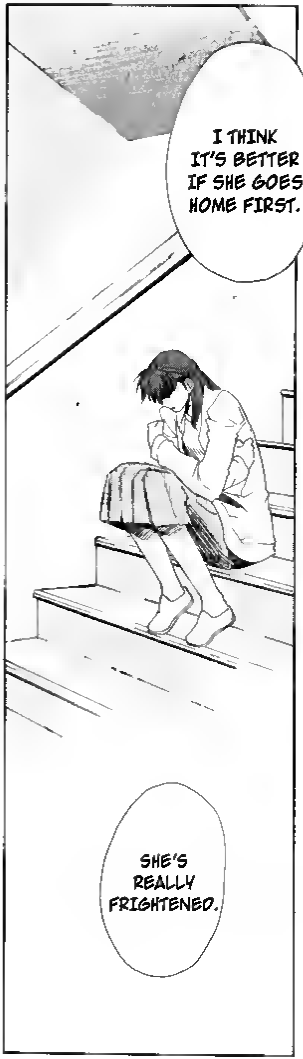
AHHHH!



SENSEI!?
WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING LIKE THAT...
OVER THERE...!!
THERE'S A CHILD...!

SFX. IT MEANS "IKU" INDICATING THAT INOUE SENSE IS SCARED
ヒタ...
ヒタ
ヒタ
ヒタ
!
SFX. THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS

WH... WHY THE HELL DO I HEAR FOOTSTEPS ...?
IS THERE SOMEONE ELSE HERE ...?
SFX: ALL THE SFX IN THE BUBBLES ARE ONLY FOR FOOTSTEPS
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S WALKING TOWARDS THE DOOR!
HURRY UP AND CHASE AFTER IT!



SFX: MORE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS

...THAT WON'T DO.
I THINK THE THING MAKING THOSE FOOTSTEPS IS HAUNTING INOUE-SENSEI.
ARE YOU SAYING SHE'S BEING HAUNTED?
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S REALLY A GHOST!?
I'M TELLING YOU WE WERE JUST HEARING THINGS!!
NOW NOW, CALM DOWN.
WHAT-!?
I MEAN, IF IT WERE A REAL GHOST, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED YOU HERE
LET'S JUST PUT ASIDE WHETHER OR NOT IT WAS A REAL GHOST FOR NOW.
I JUST TOLD YOU IT WAS REAL SO THAT YOU'D GET HERE QUICKER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!? EXPLAIN!
Don't be angry
WHAT I MEAN IS...
THE DIFFERENT KIND, THE ONES ONLY YOU ARE ABLE TO EXTERMINATE.
SOMEONE ELSE HAS MADE A "FAKE" GHOST.

THINGS ONLY I CAN EXTERMI-NATE, HUH?
BUT THE PROBLEM IS...
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE SPIRIT IS INOUE-SENSEI
SFX: MORE FOOTSTEPS SOUNDS

SO NOW WHAT?
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO IF YOU CAN'T SEE IT?
.....
SENSEI, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK
AGEHA -KUN?
COULD YOU FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE STUDENT WHO DIED IN THIS SCHOOL?
AND WHAT ARE WE GOING TO BE DOING?
WE'RE GOING TO FIND A WAY TO SEE THE GHOST
AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT!?
SHUSH!
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT YOUR PHONE FOR...!!

I'M CALLING SOMEONE FOR HELP.
SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE SHAPE TO ANYTHING.
SFX: PHONE RINGING

ACT 12

HOLE IN THE WALL (3)

THIS IS AMAZING!
I KNEW YOU WERE THE RIGHT PERSON TO CALL FOR HELP, NARUO-SENSEI!

I PUT IT INTO A PENCIL BOX
THE AUTHENTIFICATION CERTIFICATE DOES SEEM REAL.
AND IT DOES LOOK OLD AS WELL...
AND THEN BURIED IT FOR A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT, I JUST WASHED OFF THE DIRT AND DRIED OUT THE PAPER.
SINCE IF THEY WERE TO CAREFULLY EXAMINE IT, THEY'D BE ABLE TO TELL IT WAS RECENTLY MADE
SFX BURURU = PHONE RINGING
I HEAR THE TELEVISION STATION WILL BE VISITING YOU NEXT WEEK
YOU MUST BE HAPPY YOU WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT ON TIME
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
THEN AS AGREED, HERE'S THE 500,000 YOU ASKED FOR.

YOU DON'T WANT TO RUIN THE DREAMS OF THE AUDIENCE WATCHING, DO YOU?
I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOU'LL HELP ME AGAIN WHEN THE TIME COMES
YOU SHOULD BE FINE IF THEY JUST LOOK AT IT
ALSO, DON'T TIE IT WITH METAL WIRES, I PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THAT AND I DON'T WANT YOU RUINING IT
AND I RECOMMEND YOU DON'T LET THEM DO A DNA TEST ON IT
SFX: PUCHI = PRESSING SOMETHING
AGEHA ?
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!
I SEE
...YEAH, RIGHT NOW I'M TAKING CARE OF SOME BUSINESS IN CHIBA
NO, I DON'T MIND
I WAS THINKING ABOUT VISITING TOKYO ANYWAY

SHE CREATES MODELS...?
THEN DOESN'T THAT MEAN SHE'S JUST A CRAFTSMAN?

BESIDES, I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE HOW YOU'VE BEEN
SO YOU'D BETTER BE EXPECTING ME

HMMM...

IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HER THAT'LL MAKE US BE ABLE TO SEE GHOSTS?
HOW THE HELL IS SOMEONE LIKE THAT SUPPOSED TO HELP US?

IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THEN IT'D BE FASTER FOR ME TO JUST MAKE ONE, RIGHT--?
SO WHY CAN'T WE DO THAT?
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS EXTERMINATE A GHOST FOR THAT TEACHER TO BE HAPPY, RIGHT?

OF COURSE NOT
DON'T TELL ME SHE'S GONNA MAKE A PAPER MACHE GHOST AND I'M SUPPOSED TO EXTERMINATE IT!

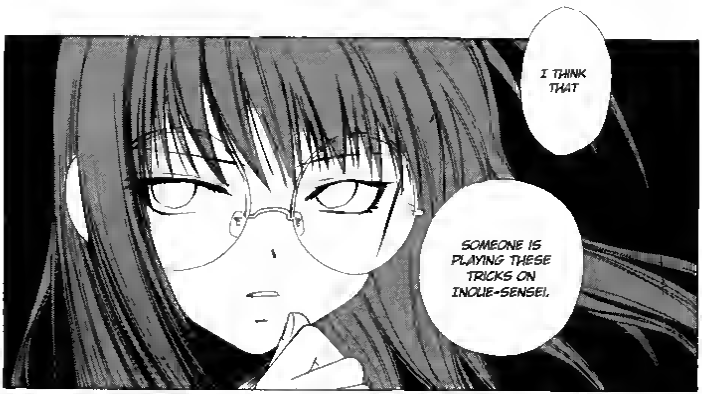
WE CAN'T. ESPECIALLY SINCE I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE GHOST THAT INOUE-SENSEI CAN SEE LOOKS LIKE...
.....

THE PERSON INVOLVED BELIEVES THAT YOU'VE EXTERMINATED IT
SO AFTER YOU DEFEAT IT, GINJI,
IT'S BECAUSE IT LOOKS EXACTLY THE WAY THE PERSON IMAGINED IT TO BE THAT THEY BELIEVE... IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S "REAL" TO THEM.

YOU CAN'T SEE IT EITHER, RIGHT? YOU CAN ONLY HEAR ITS FOOTSTEPS?

I CREATE MY GHOSTS TO MATCH THE IMAGE OF WHAT THE PERSON INVOLVED EXPECTS IT TO LOOK LIKE.

FIRST OF ALL, SHE WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT A GHOST LOOKED LIKE BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THEM.
YET SHE'S CONVINCED SHE'S SEEING A "REAL" GHOST.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS AT ALL.
HOWEVER, I CAN'T SEE THAT IMAGE THAT INOUE-SENSEI HAS IN HER MIND.
THEN WHY'S SHE ABLE TO SEE SOMETHING IF SHE DOESN'T EVEN BELIEVE IN IT?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SAYING IT'S BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T BELIEVE IN GHOSTS THAT SHE'S ABLE TO SEE IT!
THAT'S NOT IT. TRY THINKING A LITTLE HARDER.
GOOD JOB.
HER CIRCUMSTANCES ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S JUST LIKE YOU.
ME!?
DOESN'T THAT REMIND YOU OF SOMEONE?


I THINK THAT
SOMEONE IS PLAYING THESE TRICKS ON INOUE-SENSEI.

I HEARD THERE WAS A STUDENT WHO DISAPPEARED FROM YOUR CLASS.
NO
I WAS JUST CURIOUS ABOUT IT...
YES, I SEE I BELIEVE THE STUDENT'S NAME WAS...

AH, HELLO.
DID YOU RETIRE FROM TEACHING IN THIS SCHOOL EIGHT YEARS AGO...?

YES, MY NAME IS INOUE AND I'M CURRENTLY THE HOME ROOM TEACHER FOR THE 4TH YEARS.
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT A STUDENT THAT WHO WAS IN YOUR CLASS 20 YEARS AGO.

BUBBLE SFX GATAN = BAM
SFX HITA= FOOT STEPS
BUBBLE SFX GYU = GRIPPING BOOK TIGHTER
AH, SORRY... IT'S NOTHING...
HASHINO...
HASHINO YUUKI-KUN..

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE...
WHY ME ...?
WHY AM I ABLE TO SEE HIM...?
WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM ME...?
THAT KID DIED 20 YEARS AGO...
I WASN'T EVEN A GRADE SCHOOL TEACHER AT THAT TIME...
ポン

WH... WHO'RE YOU...?
ポン ポン
WHAT'S THE MATTER? ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
I'M HARUO ITSUKI
A KID NAMED AGEHA CALLED ME HERE
DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND THE CLASSROOMS FOR THE 4TH YEARS?

SFX: PAKI = HUG
SFX: PAPAPA = RUNNING
Agehaー!!
I wanted to see you.....
MMFF!
SFX: GYAー
C'MON NOW, DON'T TELL ME THIS HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL IS THE ONE WHO'S GONNA HELP US...?
WHAT THE!?
Who the hell is this ugly guy talking to me!?

He's your new partner!?
THIS... THING!?
Pair Pair

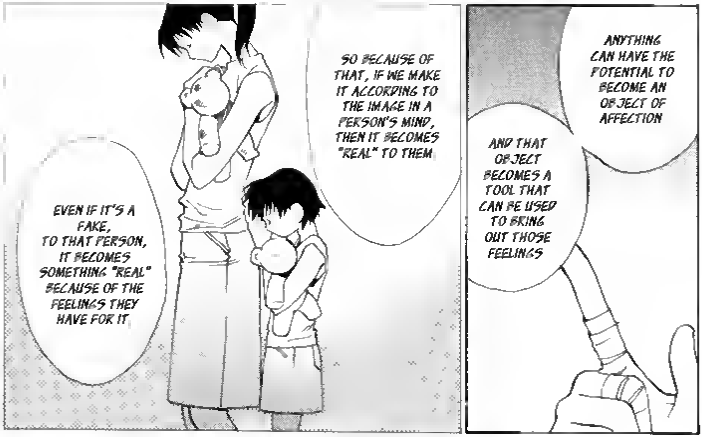
I CAN TELL JUST HOW PERVERTED HE IS BY LOOKING AT HIM!
ARE YOU OKAY? HE HASN'T FORCED YOU TO DO ANYTHING NASTY HAS HE?
I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEING FORCED TO DO THINGS!!
I'm fine

WHY DID YOU BREAK UP WITH FUTABA-CHAN?
EVEN THOUGH YOU TWO MATCHED EACH OTHER SO WELL
I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE THE MOST PERFECT, MOST BEAUTIFUL, MOST POWERFUL EXTERMINATOR TEAM I'VE EVER SEEN ....

FUTABA ?
SHE WAS A STUDENT OF CLASS 4-2 UP UNTIL LAST FALL
SHE WAS MY COUSIN... AND MY PARTNER BEFORE YOU.
THE TWO OF THEM WENT AROUND CALLING THEMSELVES GHOST EXTERMINATORS AREHA WOULD CREATE THE GHOSTS,
AND FUTABA WAS THE ONE WHO DESTROYED THEM
I DIDN'T DUMP HER
IT WAS WHAT WE AGREED ON
THAT SHE WOULD HELP ME UNTIL I FIND "HIM"
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN SHE CAME BACK TO OSAKA
WHEN I ASKED HER WHAT HAPPENED, SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS DUMPED BY YOU

ISHIGAWA GINJI
……?
SO THAT'S WHY…
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND "HIM" THEN…?
BUT WHY COULDN'T HE AT LEAST HAVE BEEN BETTER LOOKING?
I PLAN TO DO THAT SECRETLY.
……
SO THIS IS THE EMPTY CLASSROOM?
THERE'S REALLY NOTHING HERE.
OH YEAH, WHERE'S INOUE-SENSEI? YOU MET HER WHILE TRYING TO FIND THIS CLASS, RIGHT?

AFTER WE'RE DONE PREPARING THINGS HERE, YOU GO CALL INOUE-SENSEI OVER
"PREPARING"?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO WITH AN EMPTY ROOM LIKE THIS?
I HEARD FROM HER WHAT WAS GOING ON
SHE WASN'T FEELING WELL, SO I BROUGHT HER TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE
I DO BELIEVE THE IMPORTANCE OF SOMETHING ALL DEPENDS ON THE PEOPLE INVOLVED
LIKE WHEN YOU RECEIVE SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE WHO'S PRECIOUS TO YOU. EVEN THOUGH THAT GIFT DOESN'T HAVE ANY REAL VALUE, TO YOU IT'S PRICELESS
"EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD HAS A SOUL." YOU'VE HEARD THAT SAYING BEFORE, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE SAYING IS TRUE OR NOT, HOWEVER
OR WHEN YOU HAVE TO THROW SOMETHING AWAY THAT WAS PRECIOUS TO YOU,
YOU START TO FEEL FEELINGS OF SADNESS AND REGRET


ANYTHING CAN HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN OBJECT OF AFFECTION
AND THAT OBJECT BECOMES A TOOL THAT CAN BE USED TO BRING OUT THOSE FEELINGS
SO BECAUSE OF THAT, IF WE MAKE IT ACCORDING TO THE IMAGE IN A PERSON'S MIND, THEN IT BECOMES "REAL" TO THEM
EVEN IF IT'S A FAKE, TO THAT PERSON, IT BECOMES SOMETHING "REAL" BECAUSE OF THE FEELINGS THEY HAVE FOR IT

THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE TELLING ME ALL OF THIS
whisper whisper
Just tell me what you're gonna do
NO, I TOLD YOU ALREADY THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO UNDERSTAND IF YOU SPEAK IN ABSTRACT THOUGHT

BASICALLY...
WHAT NARUO IS SAYING IS THAT WE'RE MAKING A GHOST THAT INOUE-SENSEI CAN BELIEVE IN.
INOUE-SENSEI WAS INVESTIGATING HOW THE "HOLE IN THE WALL" GHOST STORY AND THE STUDENT WHO DIED WERE RELATED, REMEMBER?

ALL WE'RE GOING TO DO IS CREATE A "REAL" COPY OF THE GHOST THAT INOUE-SENSEI BELIEVES SHE IS SEEING
BUT WAIT A MINUTE...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU COULDN'T SEE THE IMAGE THAT INOUE-SENSEI HAD IN HER MIND...?
Without that we don't know what the ghost looks like to her right?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I CAN'T SEE GHOSTS EITHER
I'm not a psychic
Leave already!
THEN WHAT WAS THE POINT OF YOU COMING HERE!!
HE'S SUCH A SINGLE-MINDED PERSON, ISN'T HE?
Can't you be a little more open minded?
I DON'T REALLY MIND THOUGH
WE'RE GONNA MAKE A GHOST THAT SHE CAN BELIEVE IN, BUT I GUESS MAKING IT OUT OF PAPER MACHE ISN'T AN OPTION
YOU THINK SO TOO, RIGHT NARUO?
YOU'RE RIGHT IN THAT CASE...

I KNOW THAT THE NAME OF THE STUDENT WHO DIED WAS HASHINO YUUKI
LET'S START WITH THAT! WE'RE GONNA RE-CREATE THE PLACE OF HIS DEATH!
SO TELL ME AGAIN WHY I HAVE TO HELP YOU OUT?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? WE'RE GONNA NEED YOU TO DO THE PHYSICAL LABOR
BESIDES, YOU KNOW THIS PLACE THE BEST SINCE YOU GRADUATED FROM HERE...
UWAA ----
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY STORE SO MUCH STUFF IN THE BASEMENT...

CLASSROOMS? I THOUGHT WE DIED IN THE BATHROOM.
ALL THE DESKS AND THE CHAIRS ARE NEW...
BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THIS SCHOOL HAS CHANGED SINCE I GRADUATED FROM HERE.
HASHINO-KUN ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL 20 YEARS AGO,
I'M SURE THE CLASSROOMS HAVE CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEN
HEY.
THERE SHOULD STILL BE SOME OLD STUFF LEFT SOMEWHERE IN HERE, RIGHT?
IS THAT SO? THEN THAT MEANS
.....
ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY IT?
IT ALMOST SEEMED LIKE... AGEHA...
IT SOUNDED LIKE AGEHA'S BEEN LOOKING FOR ME FOR SOME TIME...
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER, DO YOU?

I'M NOT REALLY SURE OF THE DETAILS MYSELF, BUT
I HEARD THAT YOU AND AOEHA FIRST MET A LONG TIME AGO.
WHAT...?
THERE IT IS!
I found it....!
This is it....! This can be a spirit container...!
THIS...?

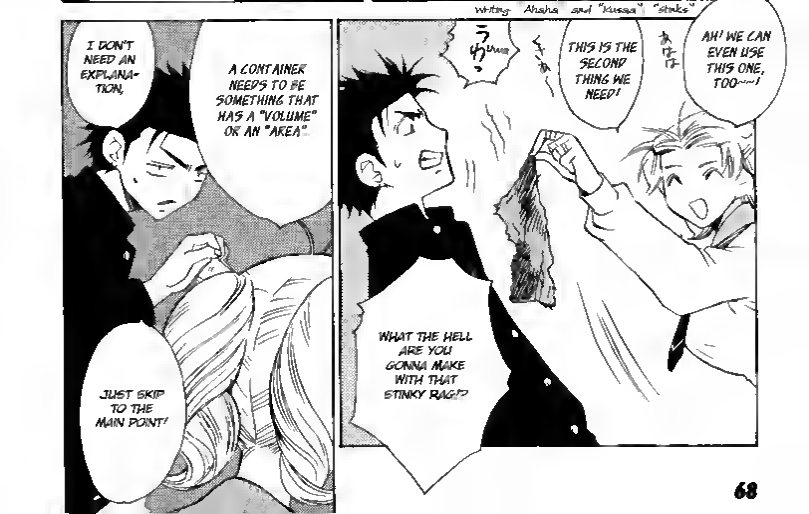
ACT 13

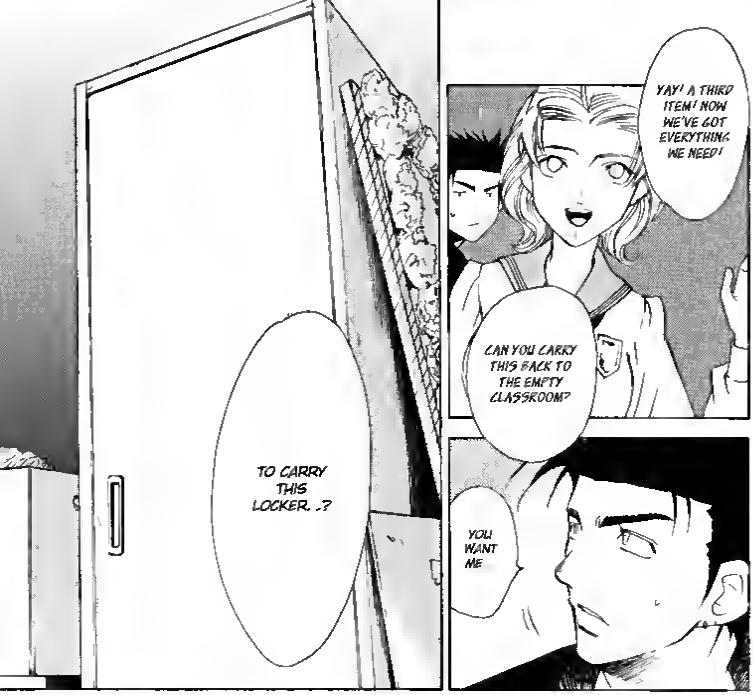
HOLE IN THE WALL(4)

butterfly
バタフライ

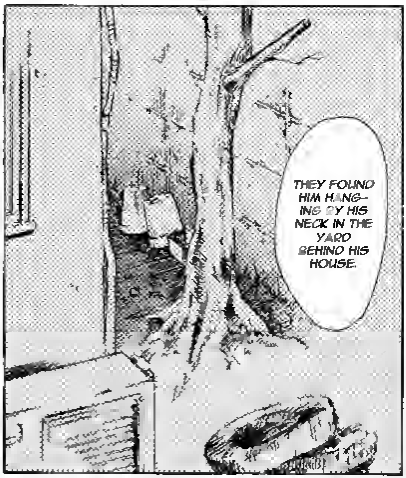
YOU AND AGEHA FIRST MET A LONG TIME AGO...
HOLD ON...
LET'S KILL THEM.
ALL THE GHOSTS IN THIS WORLD
I'M SURE THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER MET WAS AT THAT TIME
I FOUND IT...!!
THIS IS IT...!

SFX: GOSO GOSO = FOR STUFF MOVING AROUND
"TRANS NOTE: A SHOE THEY WEAR INSIDE JAPANESE SCHOOLS. BASICALLY "INDOOR SHOES"
THIS ONE!
HOW'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A "CONTAINER"?
IT LOOKS LIKE A WORN OUT UWABAKI* TO ME.
THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO CREATE A CONTAINER FOR THAT DEAD STUDENT'S SPIRIT~~~
WHAT?
SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS BOX!

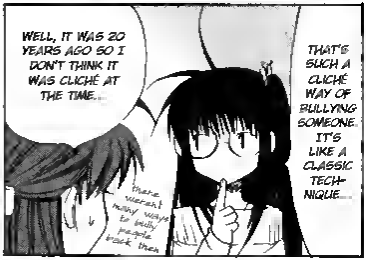

writing: Ahaha and "kusaa" "stinks"
I DON'T NEED AN EXPLANATION,
A CONTAINER NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING THAT HAS A "VOLUME" OR AN "AREA".
JUST SKIP TO THE MAIN POINT!
THIS IS THE SECOND THING WE NEED!
AH! WE CAN EVEN USE THIS ONE, TOO~~~!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA MAKE WITH THAT STINKY RAG!?

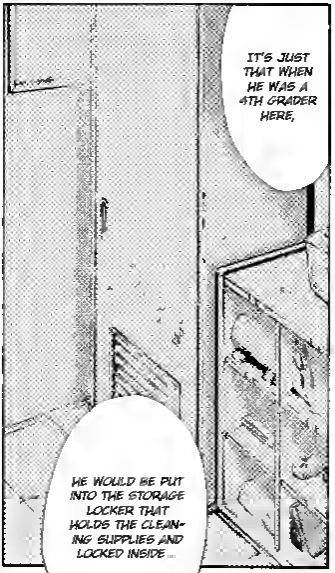

YAY! A THIRD ITEM! NOW WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED!
CAN YOU CARRY THIS BACK TO THE EMPTY CLASSROOM?
YOU WANT ME
TO CARRY THIS LOCKER..?

A LOCKER..?
保健室
THE 4TH GRADER WHO DIED 20 YEARS AGO, HASHINO YUUKI.
HE DIED IN A LOCKER?
THAT'S NOT IT.


THEY FOUND HIM HANGING BY HIS NECK IN THE YARD BEHIND HIS HOUSE.

HE DIDN'T DIE INSIDE THIS SCHOOL.
IT WAS ACTUALLY AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM THIS SCHOOL AND BECAME A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT


WELL, IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO SO I DON'T THINK IT WAS CLICHÉ AT THE TIME...
THAT'S SUCH A CLICHÉ WAY OF BULLYING SOMEONE. IT'S LIKE A CLASSIC TECHNIQUE...
There weren't many ways to bully people back then.


IT'S JUST THAT WHEN HE WAS A 4TH GRADER HERE,
HE WOULD BE PUT INTO THE STORAGE LOCKER THAT HOLDS THE CLEANING SUPPLIES AND LOCKED INSIDE...

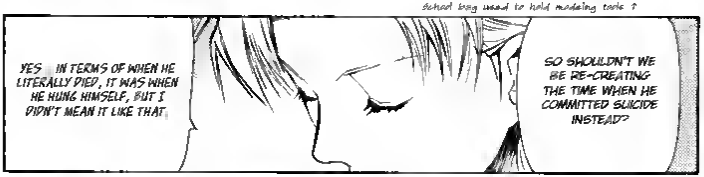
I WONDER WHAT HE WAS MAKING HIM SUFFER SO MUCH THAT HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE...
HIS TEACHER AT THE TIME SAID SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHY EITHER.
BUT...

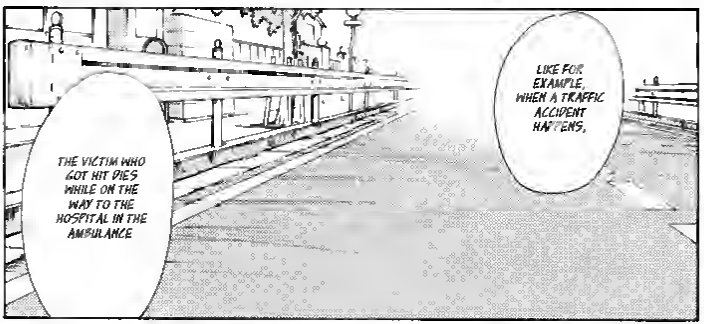
SO THAT EMPTY CLASSROOM WHERE HIS GHOST APPEARED IS HIS OLD CLASSROOM?
DO YOU THINK THE SOURCE OF ALL HIS SUFFERING CAME FROM THAT TIME WHEN HE WAS BEING BULLIED AS A 4TH GRADER?
Y... YES...
I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT I FEEL IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK INOUE-SENSEI, THEN THAT HAS TO BE RIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
LET'S GO EXTERMINATE THAT GHOST
THOSE TWO SHOULD BE DONE WITH THEIR PREPARATIONS BY NOW

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
DOESN'T IT LOOK LIKE IT WAS KICKED SO MUCH THAT THE DOOR GOT DENTED IN?
NOWADAYS... LOCKER'S ARE DESIGNED TO BE CUTE EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE GOING TO BE USED TO HOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES. BUT BACK THEN, THESE WERE MADE BECAUSE THEY WERE SOMETHING THAT WAS NEEDED
I NEEDED SOMETHING TO MATCH THE SIZE OF THE DENT'S ALREADY ON THE DOOR
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU NEEDED THIS FOR?
UWAGH
You're even grossed that filthy rag
WE DON'T HAVE TO RECREATE EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE VERY LAST DETAIL
THE IMPORTANT PART IS IF AGEHA'S HOMEROOM TEACHER BELIEVES IN IT
SO THAT'S WHY YOU ALSO GAVE IT THAT OLD SMELL THEN...?
"BACK THEN?" IT ONLY HAPPENED TWENTY YEARS AGO, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE IF THIS WAS THE TYPE OF LOCKER THEY WERE USING

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WE WERE GOING TO RE-CREATE THE PLACE WHERE HE DIED?
I DID
BUT I--I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE HAVE TO DO THIS
YUP, IT NEED'S TO SMELL LIKE THAT
THIS WAY, ANYBODY WOULD THINK THAT IT WAS A LOCKER USED TO HOLD CLEANING SUPPLIES

school bag used to hold modeling tools ?


YES IN TERMS OF WHEN HE LITERALLY DIED, IT WAS WHEN HE HUNG HIMSELF, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT
SO SHOULDN'T WE BE RE-CREATING THE TIME WHEN HE COMMITTED SUICIDE INSTEAD?


THE VICTIM WHO GOT HIT DIES WHILE ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL IN THE AMBULANCE
LIKE FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT HAPPENS,

I STILL DON'T GET IT.
THAT'S MY POINT!
I've never heard of an ambulance being haunted
HMMM...
THE PLACE WHERE THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED...?
NOW THEN, WHERE DO YOU THINK THE VICTIM'S GHOST IS GOING TO APPEAR?
B
A
Just be honest with yourself.
I KNEW GHOSTS WERE JUST MAN-MADE FANTASIES THAT PEOPLE MAKE UP.
DO YOU REALLY HATE GHOSTS THAT MUCH?
DO YOU SEE WHERE THAT LITTLE BOY IS?
AT THE SIDE OVER THERE?
HMMM?
WHAT IS IT?
COME OVER HERE AND LOOK AT THIS

THERE'S STILL A BRAT HANGING AROUND THE SCHOOL THIS LATE?
WHAT'S HE DOING ALL BY HIMSELF?
THAT'S ACTUALLY A GHOST

I PLEADED WITH AGEHA TO MAKE IT
IT'S THE GHOST OF SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
THAT'S THE GREATEST CREATION AGEHA HAS EVER MADE
WHAT...!?

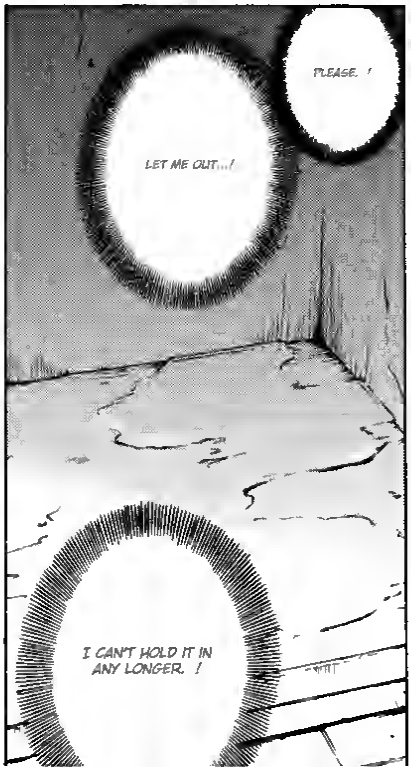
MY CHILD-HOOD FRIEND WHO DIED A LONG TIME AGO
I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HE WOULD'VE LOOKED LIKE IF HE WERE OLDER. SO I HAD AGEHA CREATE HIM JUST THE WAY I REMEM-BERED HIM WHEN I WAS YOUNG
BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY HE LOOKED LIKE WHEN HE DIED. TO ME, HE IS "REAL."
AGEHA MADE HIM...?

BUT I THOUGHT PEOPLE COULD ONLY SEE THE GHOST AGEHA CREATES BECAUSE SHE MAKES THEM THINK IT'S REAL?
HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO STILL SEE IT IF AGEHA'S NOT BESIDE YOU...?
YEAH
WAIT A MINUTE, YOU LIVE IN KANSAI, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE ALL THE WAY IN KANSAI... CAN YOU STILL SEE THE GHOST EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOWHERE NEAR AGEHA!?
THAT'S THE HINT!
IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND WHY I'M ABLE TO SEE IT EVEN THOUGH SHE'S SO FAR AWAY,
THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SOLVE THE RIDDLE BEHIND THE GHOST OF THIS EMPTY CLASS ROOM!
Ageha!!

SFX: BUTSU BUTSU = MUMBLING

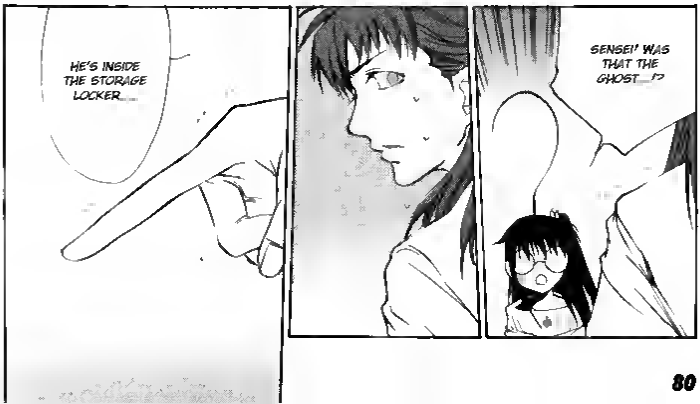
フラ
SENSEI?
ALL SET AND READY TO GO!
ARE YOU ALL DONE, NARUO?
WHAT'S GINJI MUMBLING TO HIMSELF ABOUT OVER THERE?
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE IT WAS THE LAST "MATERIAL" I ADDED IN THE END THAT'S BOTHERING HIM?
HUH? ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON?
FU FU
TRANS NOTE: "THE DARK" IS A FUN, THE SECONDARY MEANING BEING SCARY, EERIE, EDT
THE ONE PLACE I NEED TO BE DARK IN THIS ROOM IS ALREADY "DARK" ENOUGH

THIS IS...
IT WAS USED TO HOLD THE CLEANING SUPPLIES
IT LOOKS TOO FAMILIAR...
THE STORAGE LOCKER BACK WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL ALWAYS LOOKED FILTHY LIKE THIS...


PLEASE...!
LET ME OUT...!
I CAN'T HOLD IT IN ANY LONGER...!

HMMM...?
THIS SMELL...
IT'S URINE

WHO THE HELL WOULD BE COMFORTABLE TAKING A PISS IN A BRIGHT CLASS ROOM IN FRONT OF SOMEBODY!?
HE ACTS SO TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT HE ACTUALLY HAS A VERY DELICATE ON THE INSIDE~~!
You have to be gentle with him.
It look like Kamiya is at it again.
GINJI... THAT LAST "MATERIAL"... DON'T TELL ME THAT'S YOUR PISS IN THE LOCKER?
SFX: PATA = FOOT STEPS
FOOT-STEPS ?
HMM ?
スウッ


HE'S INSIDE THE STORAGE LOCKER...
SENSEI! WAS THAT THE GHOST...!?

ギィ…
SFX: ギィ = Door creaking
BE CAREFUL! YOU HAVE TO CLOSE IT SLOWLY!
CLOSE THE DOOR SO HE DOESN'T ESCAPE!
110
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE
HUH?
DID YOU SHUT HIM IN THERE?
YES... I THINK...

SEE IF THE GHOST IS STILL INSIDE
YOU CAN SEE THROUGH THAT HOLE RIGHT THERE
THIS...?
BUT IT SHOULD BE DARK IN THERE...
I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL IF ANYTHING'S IN THERE
YOU CAN STILL SEE GHOSTS EVEN WHEN IT'S DARK!
YOU JUST HAVE TO SEE IF HE'S IN THERE OR NOT!
THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE GHOST IS YOU SENSEI.
SMALL BUBBLES. HA = PEEP/HEAVY BREATHING
IT
IT
IT

SFX: GATA GATA/ DON DON = NOISES COMING FROM THE LOCKER
ガタガタ
ガタガタ
ドンドン
ドンドン
ぶらら
DAMNIT, TAKING CARE OF THIS TOOK UP A LOT OF MY TIME!
"LET ME OUT"
HE'S TELLING US TO LET HIM OUT!
OKAY!
EVERYTHING'S READY, GINJI!

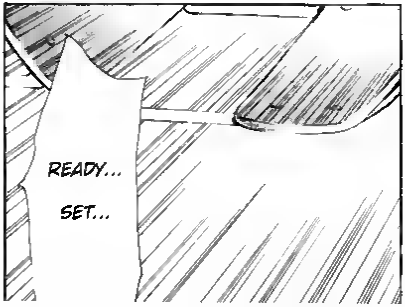
SO?
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO SINCE THAT GHOST IS INSIDE THE LOCKER?

DON'T WORRY SENSEI,
EVEN IF IT IS HASHINO YUUKI, IT'S STILL JUST A GHOST

IF WHAT WE HAD TO DO WAS CREATE A FAKE STORAGE LOCKER, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED TO HAVE NARUO COME OVER HERE!
YOU CAN DO IT, ISHIGAWA GINJI!

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF THAT LOCKER SO THAT WHATEVER IS INSIDE DIES!!


READY...
SET...

BEKON
KIKU
...WHAT THE HELL...?
I'M NOT EVEN PUTTING THAT MUCH POWER INTO IT
*METAL BANGING NOISES
I CUT SOME PLACES IN THE LOCKER SO IT'D BREAK APART
I THOUGHT I SHOULD AT LEAST MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER FOR YOU.

Now finish off that spirit!!
IT SEEMS LIKE WE WERE ABLE TO FINISH THIS REQUEST WITHOUT ANYTHING DANGEROUS HAPPENING, RIGHT, AGEHA?
THAT'S TRUE. NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT...
IS TO FIND OUT WHO WAS CONTROLLING INOUE-SENSEI AND WHO CREATED THAT FAKE GHOST.

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ガシッ
ミシャ
グラッ

THAT SHOULD DO IT
ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS THROW IT AWAY WITH THE OVERSIZED GARBAGE
THAT GHOST WAS DESTROYED ALONG WITH THE LOCKER, SENSEI.
IT'S NEVER GOING TO APPEAR AGAIN.
I... I UNDERSTAND
BUT... I STILL FEEL SORRY FOR IT...

YOU FEEL SORRY FOR IT?
GHOSTS ARE NOTHING BUT ILLUSIONS
ALL WE DID WAS AN ACT TO HELP GET RID OF THAT ILLUSION INSIDE YOUR HEAD.
THERE WAS NEVER ANY GHOST OF SOME BULLIED KID INSIDE THE LOCKER TO BEGIN WITH.
YES YOU'RE RIGHT
I WAS JUST BEING RIDICULOUS BELIEVING IT WAS REALLY A GHOST...
BUT I... I JUST CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT IT REALLY WAS HASHINO YUUKI-KUN...
THAT GHOST WENT INTO THE LOCKER.
HE RETURNED TO THE ONE PLACE WHERE HE SUFFERED THE MOST WHILE HE WAS STILL ALIVE.
IT JUST HAS TO BE HASHINO-KUN, RIGHT?
IF YOU SAY SO, SENSEI.
THAT GHOST WAS ACTING ACCORDING TO THE WAY YOU IMAGINED IT WOULD.

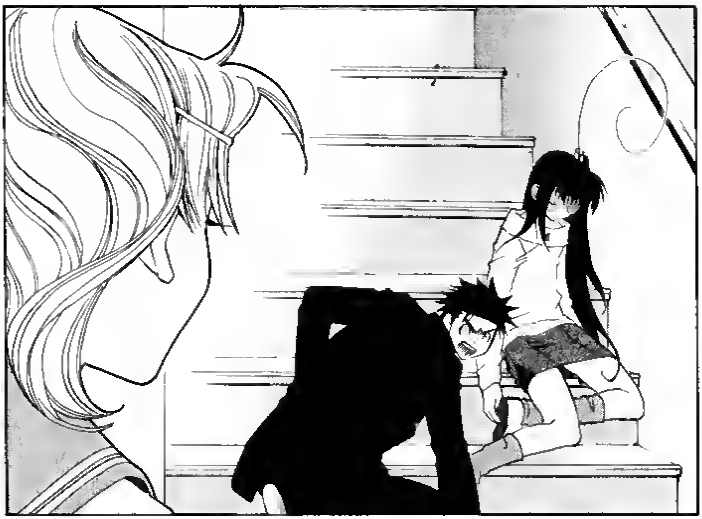
YOU FIRST SAW THE GHOST THROUGH THE HOLE IN THE WALL IN OUR CLASSROOM, RIGHT SENSEI?
THE WAY I IMAGINED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT AT THAT TIME YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT REALLY WAS.
YES...
YOU FOUND OUT THAT HE HAD DIED AFTER HE GRADUATED BY COMMITTING SUICIDE,
AND YOU ALSO FOUND OUT WHAT KIND OF BULLYING HE WENT THROUGH WHILE HE WAS IN THIS SCHOOL.
SO BECAUSE YOU SAW SOMETHING, YOU STARTED TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE DEAD STUDENT.
YOU ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE RUMOR OF THE STUDENT WHO DIED BEFORE YOU LOOKED THROUGH THE HOLE.

THE GHOST ONLY EXISTED IN YOUR MIND, SENSEI
IT ONLY DID WHAT YOU IMAGINED IT WOULD DO
IT WAS AFTER THAT THAT THE IMAGE OF THE GHOST BECAME DEFINITE.
I COULDN'T SEE THE GHOST THE WHOLE TIME THOUGH
ONCE THE IMAGE OF A GHOST BECOMES DEFINITE, WE'RE ABLE TO CAPTURE IT AND EXTERMINATE IT
HOW COULD YOU!? I WAS SO SCARED!!
WAS SO THAT AN IMAGE OF THE GHOST COULD BE CREATED!?
THEN THE REASON YOU HAD ME FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HASHINO YUUKI
THEN WHAT WAS IT...?
BUT THEN... IF IT WASN'T A GHOST...
...?

"THERE'S SOMEONE THERE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOLE IN THE WALL."
EVERYONE IN OUR CLASS BELIEVED IT
EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS JUST SOME GHOST STORY,
THERE WAS REALLY SOMEONE ON THE OTHER SIDE
I THINK THAT ALMOST EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO HEAR THE SOUNDS,
BUT LIKE GINJI AND MYSELF, I DON'T THINK EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO SEE THE GHOST...
WHAT WAS THAT THING?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVERYONE HEARD FAKE SOUNDS OR WERE SEEING THE SAME ILLUSION AT THE SAME TIME!?

I PICKED YOU, SENSEI, BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE GHOST WAS WITH YOUR HELP.
IT'S BECAUSE I FEEL THIS PRANK WAS TARGETED AT YOU.
"WE CAN'T SEE THE GHOST, BUT SENSEI CAN SEE IT"...?
"BECAUSE SHE WAS THE TARGET, EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CLASS WAS ABLE TO HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS"...?
SIGH
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
SOME KIND OF RIDDLE?

THOSE ARE REALLY LONG EYE LASHES...
IS AGEHA REALLY A BOY ?



*ACTUALLY SAYS "SHI SHI" TELLING HIM TO QUIET DOWN

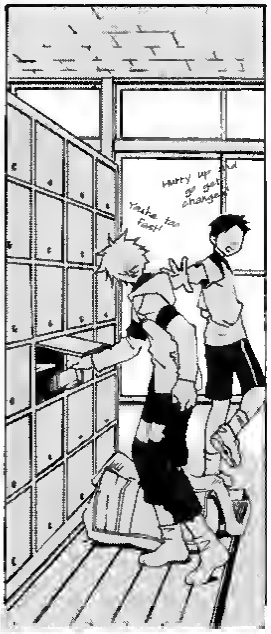
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF AGEHA WAS ACTUALLY A BOY OR A GIRL...
It's okay~~
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT~! WE'LL JUST SAY YOU WERE POSSESSED BY A DEMON, OKAY?

I ACTUALLY MET AGEHA BECAUSE I WAS FRIENDS WITH HIS COUSIN
I HAVEN'T REALLY KNOWN HIM FOR THAT LONG SO...
うん。
SO WHAT IS IT?
YOU KNOW THE REAL GENDER, RIGHT?
IS AGEHA A BOY OR A GIRL?
ガヤガヤ
As long as they're cute, I don't care.
I'M NOT THAT INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ANYWAYS!
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S REALLY A BOY OR A GIRL!
LIKE HOW HE'S ABLE TO MAKE GHOST APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A SUPER POWER, RIGHT?
I MEAN, THE WAY HE LOOKS RIGHT NOW COULD ACTUALLY BE AN ILLUSION THAT HE'S MAKING US SEE!
I THINK THERE'S A LOT MORE THAT I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HIM OTHER THAN HIS GENDER
BESIDES,

YUP. BUT YOU KNOW
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO, ISHIGAWA GINJI
SO IF HE SAYS HE'S A BOY, THEN HE'S A BOY, BUT IF HE SAYS HE'S A GIRL, THEN HE'S A GIRL, HUH—
THAT'S WHY I THINK IT'S USELESS TRYING TO PEEK AT WHETHER IT'S PANTIES OR BOXERS
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF HE WAS WEARING SKIRT?
I THINK YOU CAN BREAK THE ILLUSION,
AND SEE AGEHA'S TRUE SELF
WH.. WHAT ?
I'LL BE LEAVING NOW
I WANNA CATCH THE FIRST TRAIN BACK
TAKE CARE OF AGEHA, OKAY~~~?
AN ILLUSION?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AGEHA....
ISHIGAWA GINJI....
SO THAT'S THE PERSON AGEHA WAS ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR....?
IS IT FATE THEN
THAT HE MIGHT COME TO DESTROY MY PRECIOUS GHOST SOME DAY....?

MORNING.


Hurry up and get changed!
Yasha-kun, Yuuki!

AGEHA...

I FORGOT WHAT YOUR NAME WAS.
BUT COULD YOU COME WITH ME?

THE ONE WHO MADE THE HOLE FROM OUR CLASSROOM INTO THE EMPTY CLASSROOM
WAS YOU, RIGHT?
AND SO WHAT IF IT WAS ME?
ARE YOU SAYING I'M THE ONE WHO MADE THE GHOST?
THAT'S STUPID--
I DON'T NEED THIS CRAP SO EARLY IN THE MORNING!

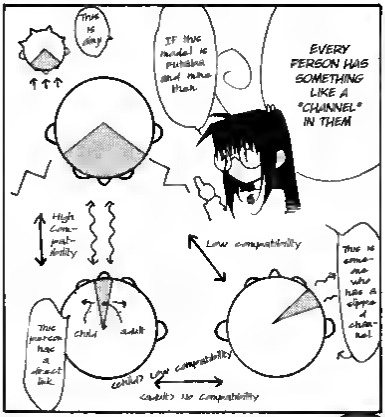
AGEHA, YOU BASTARD! YOU BROUGHT A HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENT WITH YOU!?
YOU THINK I'M GONNA BE SCARED OR SOMETHING!?
LET ME TELL YOU RIGHT NOW
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
あ～？
あ～？
I'M ALREADY IRRITATED BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP LAST NIGHT
NOW GET OUT OF MY WAY!
MY OLDER BROTHER IS A WELL KNOWN DELINQUENT!
HE'S STRONG!
HE'LL KICK THIS GUY'S ASS LIKE IT'S NOTHING----
SHUT UP!!!
YOU TELL ME WHOSE OLDER BROTHER IS SCARIER!
MY OLDER BROTHER KILLED A LITTLE GIRL THEN KILLED HIMSELF, AND NOW HIS GHOST TORMENTS ME EVERY NIGHT!!
IT WAS FUTABA.

SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO MAKE YOU REGRET WHAT YOU DID,
AND ASKED ME TO HELP HER
AFTER COMPARING ALL THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, SHE DECIDED INOUE-SENSEI WAS THE PERFECT TARGET
WHO DECIDED THAT INOUE-SENSEI WAS GOING TO BE THE TARGET?
IF I MAKE A "VISIBLE GHOST" THEN AGENA WILL NOTICE IT AND HE'LL EXTERMINATE IT. IT'D BE OVER TOO QUICKLY...
BOTH YOU AND I WERE ALREADY IN INOUE'S CLASS,
AND...
"VISIBLE GHOST"? SO ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE AN "INVISIBLE GHOST"?

DON'T WORRY
YOU JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME
I'LL GO PRETEND TO ASK INOUE-SENSEI FOR ADVICE ABOUT AGEHA AND "PREPARE" HER
YOU TAKE CARE OF MAKING EVERYONE IN THE CLASS BELIEVE THAT
"THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE OTHER END OF THE HOLE IN THE WALL", ATSUKI-KUN
THAT WAY IT'LL BE EASIER FOR THEM TO BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE REALLY HEARING FOOTSTEPS...
TO BE HONEST I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF REVENGE SHE WAS PLANNING...
I JUST DID WHAT SHE TOLD ME TO
I THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS YOU'RE TROUBLED THAT MEANS IT WORKED...
THAT'S ALL I KNOW
YOU'RE SATISFIED, RIGHT?
FUTABA...
SHE WAS YOUR PARTNER BEFORE ME, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT FROM THE BEGINNING
SINCE FUTABA HAS THE SAME POWER AS ME AND IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS

PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH BOTH THE ABILITY TO TRANSMIT AND THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE.
FUTABA AND I JUST HAPPEN TO BE STRONGER AT CONTROLLING THAT ABILITY THAN OTHERS.

HUH?
BUT I THOUGHT SHE WAS THE SAME AS ME AND JUST EXTERMINATED THE GHOSTS YOU CREATED?
SHE DID.
I thought she dealt with the ghosts, but create them...


This is easy.
If this model is Futaba and mine then...
EVERY PERSON HAS SOMETHING LIKE A "CHANNEL" IN THEM
High compatibility
Low compatibility
This is somewhat like a type of channel.
This person has a direct link.
child
adult
could? Low compatibility
could? No compatibility

THEN THE REASON THE GHOST YOU MAKE FEEL REAL TO ME IS...
That's true.
IF A PERSON DOESN'T HAVE ANY RECEPTION ABILITY, THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE THE IMAGE INSIDE A CLIENT'S HEAD.
YOUR RECEPTION ABILITY IS SURPRISINGLY STRONG. THE REST IS JUST COMPATIBILITY.

This kind of people are less likely to be involved in mass hysteria
Isaac
Ayaka
THE REASON WE COULDN'T SEE THE IMAGE OF THE GHOST INSIDE INOUE-SENSEI'S HEAD AT FIRST
IS BECAUSE HER CHANNEL HAS AN AWKWARD SLIP TO IT.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, HER TRANSMITTING POWER IS SLIGHTLY WEAKER THAN MOST PEOPLE

INOUE-SENSEI WASN'T AWARE OF IT, BUT SHE WAS THE REASON WHY ALL THE STUDENTS IN THE CLASS COULD SEE THE IMAGE OF THE GHOST.
Ayaka suddenly stopped trying to attack, and it is frustrating me as I won't be able to slay your boys.
FUTABA KNEW ABOUT IT AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THAT.
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN RELENTLESS IN PLANTING THE IMAGE OF THE GHOST IN SENSEI'S HEAD.
THAT'S WHY EVEN IF FUTABA WASN'T NEAR THE OTHER STUDENTS,
EVERYONE WAS ABLE TO HEAR THE FOOTSTEPS.

SO THAT'S WHY NARUO IS ABLE TO SEE HER GHOST EVEN IF YOU AREN'T NEAR HER.
FORTUNATELY FOR NARUO, SHE HAS VERY WEAK TRANSMITTING ABILITY.
THAT'S WHY THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE TO SEE IT.
But if it's always with her, wouldn't it be a matter of time before the people that she's around start seeing it?
ｶﾞﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙﾙ
SFX = RURURURU

I HEARD YOU EXTERMINATED THE "HOLE IN THE WALL GHOST"
I KNEW YOU WERE AMAZING, AGEHA
F... FUTABA !?
HOW DID YOU...
THAT LITTLE PARTING GIFT OF MINE WAS MY DECLARATION OF WAR ON YOU.
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU REGRET EVER ABANDONING ME~ ♡

ch 15

TALKATIVE SCARS ①

TN NOTE: BLOODY WRITINGS ON HAND, KILL
..MOM...
THE WRITINGS APPEARED ON MY ARMS AGAIN..
HOW CRUEL ..
WHY DOES MY POOR CHILD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS .?
THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER ..
YOUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER HAS BEEN CURSED.

HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
I, AGEHA, WILL EXCORCIZE THE SPIRIT THAT IS HAUNTING YOUR DAUGHTER.
Ageha -chan!
I'M SO HAPPY WE GET TO BE CLASSMATES AGAIN AS 5TH GRADERS!
THAT'S NO FAIR! I WANTED TO BE CLASSMATES WITH AGEHA -CHAN~!
HEH, I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO POPULAR, AGEHA.

I NEED TO GO HOME EARLY, SO HURRY UP AND LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
SO WHAT'S THIS "EMERGENCY" YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?!
AGEHA-CHAN..

AH, SINJI. THAT WAS QUICK.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT.
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID "I NEED YOU HERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE"!

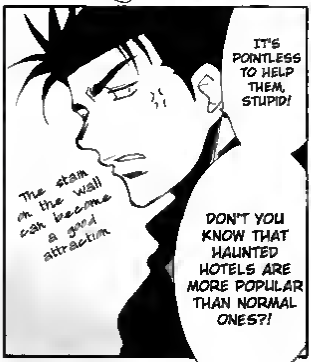
I'M NOT HER PET!!
YOU TWO DON'T MATCH --
WHO'S THIS? YOUR PET SERVANT?
HE'S TOO UGLY --
Although he looks kinda sturdy

DO YOU DO THIS ON A NORMAL BASIS?!
WERE YOU SKIPPING OUT ON SCHOOL TO DO THESE THINGS?
REMEMBER WHEN WE EXTERMINATED THAT GHOST AT MY SCHOOL?
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WAS INTERROGATED BY MY TEACHER.
THAT CUTE ACT WON'T WORK ON ME!!

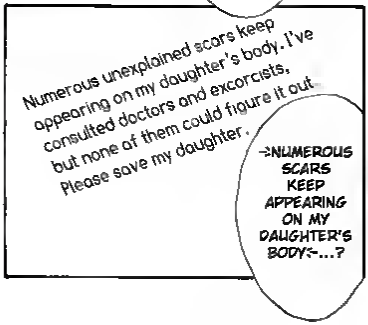
THE TRUTH IS,
MY WORK HAS BEEN PILING UP LATELY.
SHH-PUPP!
I'm gonna have your parents re-train you!
See you later! Train him well, Ageha!

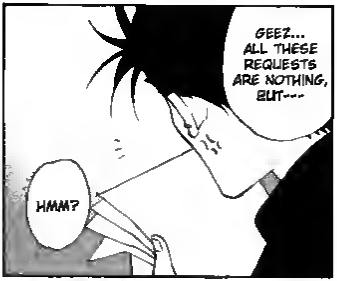
FOR A YOUNG TEACHER, SHE'S PRETTY STRICT.
HER NAME WAS INOUE-SENSEI RIGHT?
SHE EVEN HAS ME COMING IN DURING SUMER BREAK TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE DAYS I MISSED AND NOW THERE ARE ALREADY 32 REQUESTS FOR MY SERVICES.
And even though I'm a 5th-grader now, she ended up being my teacher again.
SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS GOING TO SEE THAT I LIVE MORE OF A NORMAL GRADE-SCHOOL LIFE.
But that's the summer vacation!
Why the Tennis Club?
SHE FORCED ME TO BECOME A COMMITTEE MEMBER AND EVEN MADE ME JOIN A CLUB ..
LATELY, MOST OF THE REQUESTS HAVE BEEN NOTHING BUT QUESTIONS ASKING FOR ADVICE.
WELL, THAT'S HOW MANY THAT WERE POSTED ON MY SITE...
32?! THAT MANY?!
I'VE ALREADY LEFT A POST SAYING I'LL BE TAKING A BREAK FOR A WHILE.
SO THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO GET YOUR OPINION ON WHICH REQUEST I SHOULD DO FIRST.

LET'S SEE... ~THERE IS A ROOM IN MY HOTEL THAT GUESTS ALWAYS REFUSE TO STAY IN AFTER ONE NIGHT~?
~THERE'S A STAIN ON THE WALL THAT THEY HEAR CRYING VOICES COMING OUT OF~?
~THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH A HANGING SCROLL ON THE WALL~?
THEN JUST PUT THEM IN ANOTHER ROOM!
THEN COVER IT UP WITH WALL PAPER, IDIOT!
I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOU!!
STOP ...


IT'S POINTLESS TO HELP THEM, STUPID!
The stain on the wall can become a good attraction
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT HAUNTED HOTELS ARE MORE POPULAR THAN NORMAL ONES?!

TAKE THIS SERIO -USLY!
HOTELS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES SURVIVE BY MAKING CONTRACTS WITH EACH OTHER! IF THAT HOTEL SHUTS DOWN, THEN IT'LL TROUBLE A LOT OF PEOPLE!


Numerous unexplained scars keep appearing on my daughter's body. I've consulted doctors and excorcists, but none of them could figure it out. Please save my daughter.
~NUMEROUS SCARS KEEP APPEARING ON MY DAUGHTER'S BODY~...?


GEEZ... ALL THESE REQUESTS ARE NOTHING, BUT---
HMM?

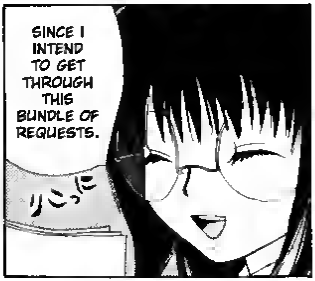
AH, THAT ONE ...
DIDN'T SHE EVER THINK THAT HER DAUGHTER COULD BE LYING TO HER AND DOING IT TO HERSELF?
"THAT ONE"? ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT TO PUT THIS ASIDE?
→WORDS LIKE "MURDER" AND "DIE" HAVE BEEN CARVED INTO HER SKIN←...?
WHAT THE ...
IT SEEMS LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO IGNORE THAT ONE AFTER ALL ...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH!
BARAKU
DON'T WORRY. IT'S BETTER TO IGNORE THOSE KINDS.
I THINK YOU SHOULD AT LEAST LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'VE READ THEIR REQUEST ...
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, AGENA?!
.....!
HEY! YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

I JUST GOT A TEXT FORM THE PERSON WHO WROTE THAT REQUEST.
SHE SEEMS TO BE VERY ANGRY WITH ME.
NA-K
ASEHA-SAMA, BECAUSE OF THE RITUAL YOU PERFORMED YESTERDAY, MY DAUGHTER'S CONDITION HAS WORSENED. HOW DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE UP FOR THIS?!
TOKYOO
SO...

TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE'RE RIDING THE BULLET TRAIN?
It'll be dark before we get back, you know?
THE PERSON WHO REQUESTED MY HELP LIVES IN NAGOYA.
It'll be dark by the time we get there.
WE COULD TAKE A HIGH SPEED BUS NEXT TIME IF THAT'S BETTER FOR YOU?

YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN A DAY TO GET TO NAGOYA AND BACK!
I'M EXPECTING YOU TO COVER ALL THE TRAVELING EXPENSES.
dammit, now I gotta call my parents and let them know
Let's see— we'll stop by Hamamatsu and Shizuoka— oh, we can visit the client in Izu
I THINK THIS TRIP WILL TAKE US ABOUT 4 OR 5 DAYS.

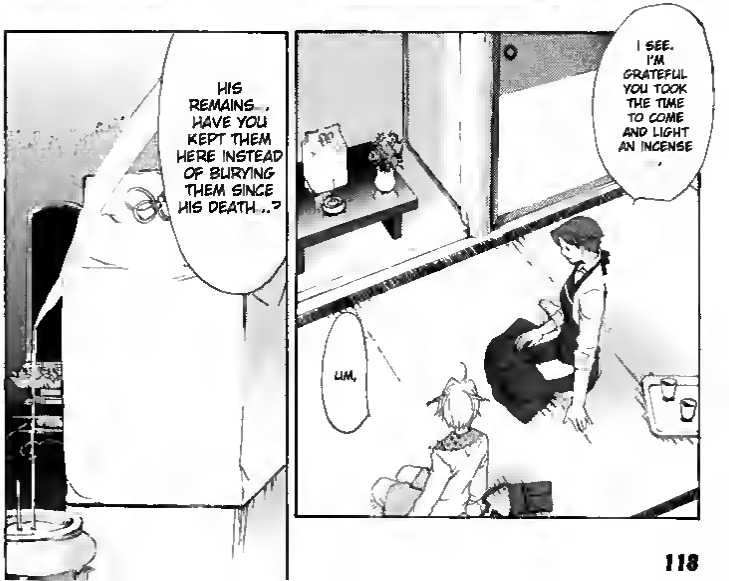
YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT!


SINCE I INTEND TO GET THROUGH THIS BUNDLE OF REQUESTS.
りこ:に

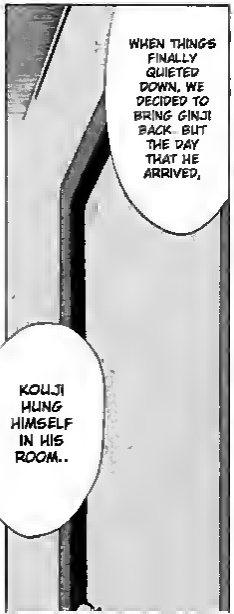
NOON
WHAT? YOU WANNA LIGHT INCENSE FOR MY BROTHER?
THAT'S FINE WITH ME...
GREAT.
There's no practice for my club today
We don't have a proper altar, though
WHAT'S TAKING ISHIGAWA-KUN SO LONG...?
BASTARD? DO YOU MEAN THAT AGEHA KID?
UGH, THAT BASTARD IS CALLING ME AGAIN!
SOMETHING JUST CAME UP, SO I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU IN FRONT OF MY HOUSE LATER, ALRIGHT?
I'LL BE BACK BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
WAIT, ISHIGAWA-KUN!!

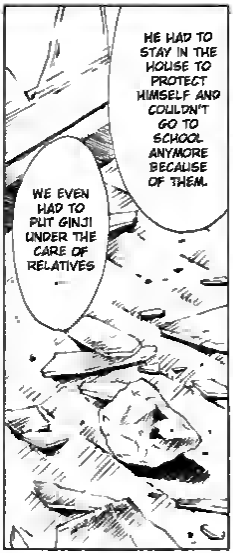
HE DOESN'T MIND MAKING ME WAIT,
BUT HE GOES OFF FLYING WHENEVER THAT AGEHA KID CALLS FOR HIM ...
THINKING ABOUT IT IS STARTING TO MAKE ME FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF.
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
NA-CHII!!
HATA-KEYA-MA-KUN!!
Na-chii?
IF YOU'RE WAITING FOR ISHIGAWA, I JUST GOT A CALL FROM HIM SAYING HE WON'T BE COMING BACK TODAY.
He was saying something about being kidnapped and dragged around Japan by a 6th grade schooler.
HE SAID HE COULDN'T GET YOU THROUGH YOUR CELL PHONE SO HE ASKED ME TO COME HERE AND TELL YOU.
My house is the one at the corner
AH! MY CELL PHONE DIED! I WAS SURE IT STILL HAD SOME POWER LEFT !!
I'm such an idiot ...
OH? IS THAT YOU, HATA-KEYA-MA-KUN?

OBAA-SAN ...!!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GINJI HE ISN'T HOME RIGHT NOW.
DO YOU WANT TO COME INSIDE AND WAIT FOR HIM?
SHE'S ISHI-GAWA-KUN'S MOTHER ...?


I SEE. I'M GRATEFUL YOU TOOK THE TIME TO COME AND LIGHT AN INCENSE.
UM,
HIS REMAINS... HAVE YOU KEPT THEM HERE INSTEAD OF BURYING THEM SINCE HIS DEATH...?

I'VE ALSO HEARD STORIES THAT NOBODY REMEMBERS SEEING A LITTLE GIRL FALL...
SO BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE, THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST KOUJI, BUT...
DO YOU KNOW THAT STORY ABOUT KOUJI PUSHING THE LITTLE GIRL AND CAUSING HER DEATH?
YES ... I DO.


WHEN THINGS FINALLY QUIETED DOWN, WE DECIDED TO BRING GINJI BACK. BUT THE DAY THAT HE ARRIVED,
KOUJI HUNG HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM..


HE HAD TO STAY IN THE HOUSE TO PROTECT HIMSELF AND COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE BECAUSE OF THEM.
WE EVEN HAD TO PUT GINJI UNDER THE CARE OF RELATIVES ...

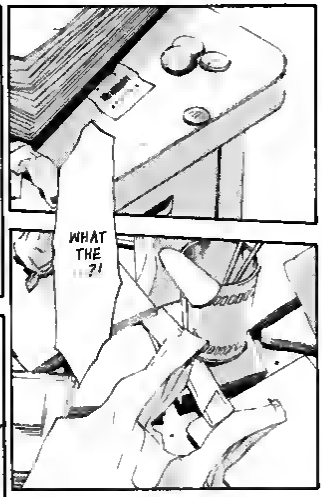
GET OUT OF HERE!!
WE KNOW YOU DID IT!
YOU THINK JUST CAUSE YOU'RE STILL A KID YOU CAN GET AWAY ANYTHING?!
YOU THINK KILLING LITTLE KIDS IS A GAME?!

HE WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED HIMSELF IF HE WASN'T GUILTY, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT I ONCE THOUGHT, BUT...
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT HE KILLED A LITTLE GIRL, OBAA-SAMA ...?
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED THAT DAY AT THE TRAIN PLATFORM ...
WHAT HAPPENED THAT DROVE KOUJI TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE...
IF I BURY HIS REMAINS
WITH SO MUCH DOUBT AND WITHOUT KNOWING THE TRUTH...
I FEEL IF I DO THAT... THEN IT WOULD MEAN THAT I'VE TRULY ABANDONED HIM...
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT IT FRUSTRATES ME.
NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS HAVE GONE BY, I STILL SEE HIM IN MY DREAMS.

I SEE... I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT HE'S STILL FRIENDS WITH HATAKE-YAMA-KUN.
HE HASN'T COME BY TO VISIT EVER SINCE THAT DAY.
THAT DAY ...?
Ah!
No, uhm ..
I-I'm just a friend !!!
ANYWAYS, WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU GINJI'S GIRLFRIEND?
POOR HATA-KEYA-MA-KUN... HE SAW EVERYTHING.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO FOND KOUJI
SPEAKING OF HIM, WHERE IS HATAKE-YAMA-KUN?

SFX: STAIRS CREAKING
SO MY BROTHER'S JUST BEEN PLAYING GAMES EVER SINCE HE STOPPED GOING TO SCHOOL?
He's so lucky, there are no games at my grandpa's house
I'M JUST HERE TO HAVE A MATCH WITH YOUR BROTHER FROM THIS GAME WE PLAY!
LONG TIME NO SEE, GINJI!
HATA-KEYA-MA?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT MY HOUSE?
I'LL SEE YOU UP THERE,
GO HURRY UP SLOW POKE!
WAIT FOR ME--!

WHAT'S WRONG HATA-KEYAMA?
K... KOU -CHAN.. HE...
SOME-THING WRONG WITH MY BRO-THER?
OVER THERE IS GINJI'S ROOM...
EVEN THOUGH I TRIED TO FORGET, I GUESS I COULDN'T ...
AND THIS IS KOU-CHAN'S ROOM..


WHAT THE ...?!

I'M SURE THAT THIS IS GINJI'S ROOM...!!

IMPOSSIBLE !!
BUT WHY ...?!
THAT GINJI...
HE'S BEEN STAYING IN THE SAME ROOM THAT HIS BROTHER HUNG HIMSELF IN...?!

HOW DO YOU PEOPLE INTEND TO MAKE UP FOR THIS?!
BECAUSE OF THAT GIRL, AGENA, MY DAUGHTER'S SCARS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE...!!

THE TWO OF YOU ARE HER PARTNERS, RIGHT!?
HOW DOES SHE INTEND TO MAKE UP FOR THIS!?
BECAUSE OF THAT GIRL, MY DAUGHTER'S SCARS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE!!

PLEASE CALM DOWN, TAKEUCHI -SAN.
I AM THE REAL AGEHA.
THE PERSON THAT YOU MET WAS AN IMPOSTER.

AN IM-POS-TER..?
HOWEVER, I AM ALSO RESPONSIBLE SINCE THEY DID USE MY NAME.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE YOU TO TELL ME
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE SCARS ON YOUR DAUGHTER.
THE FIRST TIME THE SCARS BEGAN TO APPEAR ON HER BODY..
WAS ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO.
I WASN'T CONCERNED AT FIRST SINCE THEY WERE LIGHT SCRATCHES ON THE SKIN THAT WOULD HEAL IN ABOUT A WEEK OR SO .
MOM, I DON'T REMEMBER HOW I GOT THIS SCAR...
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T SCRATCH YOURSELF BUMPING INTO SOMETHING?

MY HUSBAND AND I STARTED TO WORRY AND ASKED AROUND FOR HELP, BUT NO ONE COULD EXPLAIN WHAT WAS HAPPENING
SO THAT WAS WHEN YOU POSTED THAT REQUEST ON MY WEB SITE?
THEN MORE SCARS STARTED TO APPEAR ALMOST EVERY OTHER DAY AFTER THAT.
LITTLE BY LITTLE, HER SCARS BEGAN TO TAKE THE SHAPE OF LETTERS...
IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THAT GIRL WHO CALLED HERSELF "AGEHA" CAME TO OUR HOUSE.
YOUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER HAS BEEN CURSED...
HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

I, AGEHA, WILL EXORCIZE THE SPIRIT THAT IS HAUNTING YOUR DAUGHTER.
SO THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF SOME HALF-ASSED RITUAL THAT THE IMPOSTOR PERFORMED?
AC-TUA-LLY ...
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL....
THAT GIRL SAID THAT A WOMAN'S EVIL SPIRIT WAS HAUNTING OUR HOUSE.
DURING THE RITUAL, HER GHOST APPEARED IN FRONT OF US.
PLE-ASE DO NOT PANIC
.....
IT SEEMS THIS WOMAN HOLDS A STRONG GRUDGE AGAINST AN ANCESTOR FROM THE FATHER'S SIDE

SIR,
DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN YOUR FAMILY WHOSE NAME STARTS WITH -ICHI- OR -NI-?
WAIT... DOESN'T YOUR COUSIN YOSHIO-SAN HAVE A STEPFATHER NAMED ICHIRO?
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND HE WAS WELL KNOWN FOR PLAYING AROUND WITH LOTS OF WOMEN...
BUT WE CLEARLY SAW THAT WOMAN'S SPIRIT...
ANYONE WOULD HAVE BELIEVED HER AFTER THAT...
JEEZ, ALMOST ANYBODY HAS A RELATIVE WITH A NAME STARTING WITH EITHER -ICHI- OR -NI- IF THEY SEARCH HARD ENOUGH.
BESIDES IF SHE WAS HOLDING A GRUDGE THEN SHE WOULD'VE HAUNTED THAT YOSHIO GUY'S HOUSE INSTEAD RIGHT?
BE QUIET!
ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO GO VISIT THIS WOMAN'S GRAVE.
I'LL TAKE HER SPIRIT WITH ME AND GIVE HER A PROPER RITUAL TO PASS ON INTO THE AFTERLIFE.
ABOUT THAT...
SINCE THE WOMAN'S GHOST IS STILL HERE...
THEN SHE'S APPEARED IN FRONT OF YOU AT LEAST A FEW TIMES, RIGHT?

AND BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN APPEARING AGAIN, YOUR DAUGHTER'S SYMPTOMS HAVE GOTTEN WORSE.
PLEASE LEAVE THIS TO ME
.....
THIS TIME, THE REAL GEHA
WILL GLADLY EXTERMINATE THE GHOST THAT HAUNT'S THIS HOUSE!
AND OF COURSE, WE'LL BE DOING THIS FOR FREE!
WHAAT?!
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING!
THE ONLY REASON I'VE BEN HELPING YOU WITH THIS CRAP IS TO PAY OFF THE MONEY I OWE YOU!!!

WHAT'S THE POINT OF WORKING FOR YOU IF I'M NOT GONNA GET PAYED FOR IT!!
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO GET PAID.
WE JUST HAVE TO GET BACK THE MONEY FUTABA TOOK.
DO YOU THINK SHE'S JUST GOING TO GIVE IT TO US?
FUTABA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE MONEY.
WHAT SHE REALLY WANTS
IS ME

WOW
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE...
Do you want to be with her or not?
.....

BUT THE ONE I WANT TO BE WITH IS YOU GINJI
カァァ
PAW
Don't touch me, pervert!
IF YOU DON'T QUIT DOING THAT, I'M GONNA HIT YOU!

BESIDES, WHY THE HELL DID I HAVE TO BE YOUR PARTNER?
YOU WERE GETTING ALONG SO WELL WITH THE LOVABLE FUTABA-CHAN; IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER TO STAY WITH HER, RIGHT?

I STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE ACTUALLY A BOY OR A GIRL
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY INTEREST IN DATING A GRADE SCHOOLER!
*LITERALLY MEANS "UNTIL YOU GROW SOME HAIR"
WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT THAT LATER SINCE I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH NOW, SO NO PEEKING, OKAY~
CHU~
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR ME TO DO EVEN IF I WANTED TO PEEK
HOW ABOUT I SKIP ALL THAT AND GET RIGHT INTO THE BATHTUB WITH YOU, AHH?

HAA
SO YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND ISHIGAWA GINJI ..

YOU AND AGEHA FIRST MET A LONG TIME AGO..
.....

SHE SAID THAT I MET AGEHA BEFORE... BUT WHEN?
WAS IT SO LONG AGO THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER ...?
IF THAT WAS THE CASE, AGEHA WOULD HAVE BEEN A BABY AT THE TIME, THOUGH...

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
WHERE DID WE MEET?
WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US?

WELL THEN, I GUESS I SHOULD BE GOING.
I'M REALLY SORRY, GINJI STILL HASN'T COME HOME.
THAT BOY, HE'S JUST BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.

AGEHA
JUST WHO ARE YOU...

TAKA-MATSU-SAN,
THANK YOU FOR THOSE FLOWER YOU BROUGHT FOR KOUJI
IF YOU'D LIKE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME VISIT AGAIN ANYTIME
HATA-KEYA-MA-KUN
AKIRA?
OH, HE'S ON THE PHONE
NO, RIGHT NOW
AT MY PLACE
I NEED TO SEE YOU
UWAA- IS HE GOING TO SEE AKIRA-SAN EVEN THOUGH IT'S THIS LATE?
I GUESS EVEN THE "CALM AND COLLECTED" HATEKEYAMA-KUN "CAN GET HOTBLOODED
*SHE MEANS (GETS HORNY)
I'LL BE WAITING

I THINK ISHIGAWA-KUN'S MOM IS A STRONG PERSON.

SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ISHIGAWA FAMILY?
HUH!?
UMM. WELL...

I'D GET KINDA JEALOUS WHENEVER I CAME OVER.
SHE PUT HERSELF FIRST, EVEN BEFORE BEING A PARENT
MY MOTHER DIDN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE A "MOM" TO ME

SHE LOST A SON,
SHE COULDN'T LEAVE HER HOUSE OR SHE'D BE HARASSED BY THE MEDIA
EVEN AFTER ALL OF THAT, SHE WAS ABLE TO GO BACK TO HER NORMAL EVERYDAY LIFE
...WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I REALLY LIKED COMING OVER TO THIS HOUSE. I LIKED BEING HERE MORE THAN BEING AT MY OWN HOME.
IT WAS A NORMAL FAMILY WITH A FATHER, A MOTHER, AND A PAIR OF BROTHERS

ISHIGAWA'S MOTHER KNEW THAT IF SHE WANTED TO RETURN TO HER NORMAL DAILY LIFE,
SHE HAD TO BECOME STRONG AND ENDURE IT

ANY-WAYS, I'LL SEE YOU LATER
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL ISHIGAWA GETS BACK SO WE CAN PUNISH HIM.
RIGHT, BYE BYE
WHAT WAS THAT...?
IT WAS JUST FOR A SECOND, BUT HATEKAYA-KUN HAD A SCARY LOOK IN HIS EYES...
DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHY HE HASN'T VISITED ISHIGAWA-KUN'S HOUSE IN A LONG TIME...?
MORE SCARS HAVE APPEARED!?

THIS IS...
TOO MUCH...
THESE SCARS ARE A LOT DEEPER THAN THE ONES THAT SHE ALREADY HAS.
SHE SAID SHE SAW THE WOMAN'S GHOST IN HER ROOM LAST NIGHT.
WHEN SHE WOKE UP, THE SCARS WERE ALREADY THERE

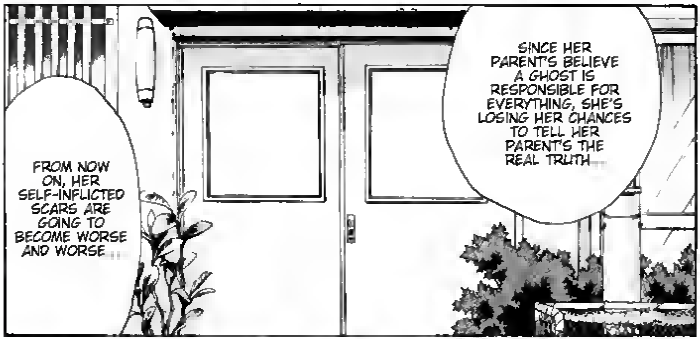
YOU HAVE TO HURRY!
PLEASE SAVE MY DAUGHTER!!!
HEY,
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
THAT GHOST WAS JUST SOMETHING FUTABA CREATED, RIGHT!?
COME ON, LET'S GET YOU CLEANED UP.
OK
WELL...
ARE THOSE FAKE GHOSTS ABLE TO HARM PEOPLE?
I THOUGHT THEY WERE JUST IMAGES CREATED FROM PEOPLE'S MINDS?!
FUTABA DID CREATE THAT FAKE GHOST, BUT SHE DIDN'T DESTROY IT SO THAT IT WOULD REAPPEAR HERE. BUT WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
THERE ARE IMAGES THAT CAN HURT PEOPLE.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S NOT A "GHOST" THAT'S DOING THIS
HUH?
LET'S GO OUTSIDE,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO TALK FREELY THERE.

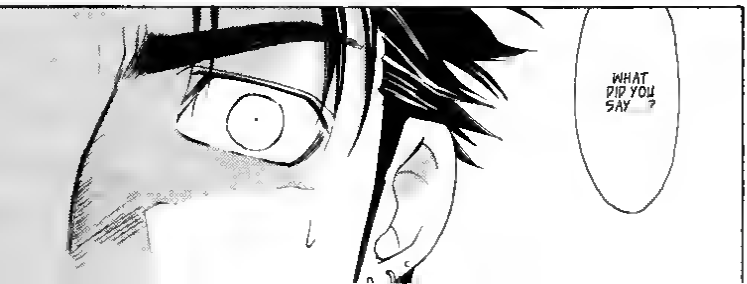
UNEXPLAINED SCARS SUDDENLY APPEARING ON THE BODY....
IT'S ALMOST LIKE STIGMATA, WHERE MYSTERIOUS SCARS APPEAR ON A PERSON'S BODY AND START BLEEDING WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION
THERE ARE EVEN REPORTED CASES ABOUT IT
A LOT OF THINGS ARE STILL UNSOLVED IN THIS WORLD,
SO WE TRY TO BRUSH IT OFF AS AN ALLERGIC REACTION TO SOMETHING OR A PAST TRAUMA....
Just traumas are scars of the mind though.
BUT THAT GIRL'S SCAR ARE SELF INFLICTED
SELF INFLICTED ?!
YOU THINK SHE'S DOING THAT TO HERSELF?!
WHETHER THEY'RE AWARE OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO THEMSELVES OR NOT CHANGES FROM PERSON TO PERSON
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT HER, I GET THE FEELING SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S DOING TO HERSELF
YOU CAN CREATE FAKE SCARS JUST BY USING YOUR OWN FINGER NAILS TO CUT YOUR SKIN.
AND IF YOU HAVE A SMALL ENOUGH TOOL THAT YOU CAN HIDE IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND,
IT BECOMES REALLY EASY TO MAKE THOSE SCARS DEEPER WHEN YOUR FAMILY ISN'T LOOKING.

ALSO, I KNOW THAT SHE'S RIGHT-HANDED AFTER OBSERVING HER FOR A WHOLE DAY.
SO I'M SURE SHE'S USING SOME KIND OF SMALL BLADE TO DO IT.
WHEN WE FIRST CAME HERE, THAT GIRL'S FINGER NAILS WERE CUT SHORT.
AS FOR THE SCARS THAT APPEARD TODAY, IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU CAN TELL SHE WROTE THEM FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND TOP TO BOTTOM.
MOST OF THE SCARS ARE CONCENTRATED ON HER LEFT FOREARM, AND THE LETTERS ARE EVEN BACKWARDS
THE LETTERS ON HER BACK WERE CARVED GOING TO THE RIGHT.
I KNEW NOTHING GOOD COMES FROM PEOPLE WHO TRY TO BLAME THINGS ON SPIRITS AND GHOSTS!
WHAT ABOUT HER MOM? IS SHE JUST BLAMING IT ON GHOSTS BECAUSE SHE DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH HER DAUGHTER!?
ALL HER SCARS ARE IN PLACES WHERE SHE CAN REACH WITH HER RIGHT HAND.
SINCE SHE'S RIGHT HANDED, IT ALL STARTS TO MAKE SENSE
YOU WANTED TO TURN THIS REQUEST DOWN BECAUSE YOU ALREADY KNEW, DIDN'T YOU!?
DAMMIT!
SO THE CLIENT IS TRYING TO SCAM US!?

WHAT...?
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A PERSON IS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...
I'M SURE THAT GIRL'S DOING IT 'CAUSE SHE'S CRAVING FOR ATTENTION
SHE WOULDN'T SCAR HERSELF TO THAT EXTREME IF SHE JUST WANTED ATTENTION
.....
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SIMPLE.
I CAN FEEL IT. THAT GIRL IS HIDING SOMETHING
HUH?
THAT STUPID FUTABA SHE KNEW THE REASON, BUT STILL HAD TO GO AND MAKE A FAKE GHOST OF A WOMAN SHE CAN BE UNBELIEVABLY CRUEL SOMETIMES.
SHE WANTS TO TELL IT SO BADLY THAT IT'S SUFFOCATING HER, AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S ENDED UP AS BAD AS SHE LOOKS...

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I THINK IT OVER, IT STILL SEEMS LIKE A SCAME TO ME
SO ARE WE JUST GONNA DEAL WITH THIS AS USUAL?
NO, IF WE DID THAT, THE FAKE GHOST, WOULD BE DESTROYED, BUT WE STILL WOULDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM.
She even involved the girl's parents
THE REASON FUTABA LEFT THAT FAKE GHOST HERE
WAS TO FORCE THAT GIRL INTO A CORNER...


SINCE HER PARENT'S BELIEVE A GHOST IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING, SHE'S LOSING HER CHANCES TO TELL HER PARENT'S THE REAL TRUTH...
FROM NOW ON, HER SELF-INFLICTED SCARS ARE GOING TO BECOME WORSE AND WORSE...


WHAT DID YOU SAY...?

SHE CAN ONLY SEE ONE KIND OF DEAD BODY IN HER MIND.
IF WE DON'T HURRY UP AND SAVE HER, THINGS WILL GET SERIOUS.

NOW THEN,
I WILL BEGIN THE EXCORCISM.

I DID EVERYTHING JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO
AND CLEANED UP MY DAUGHTER'S ROOM.
THANK YOU
THOUGH I WISH YOU WOULD'VE TAKEN OUT THE FURNITURE TOO, BUT THIS WILL DO.

YOU DON'T MIND IF SOME THINGS GET BROKEN DURING THE PROCESS, DO YOU?
THINGS CAN GET DAMAGED JUST FROM EXCOR-CISMS...?
GINJI,
I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.

GOT IT.
I'M GONNA TERMINATE THAT GHOST

STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH MY HUSBAND'S GOLF CLUB!?
I JUST TOLD YOU I'M GONNA TERMINATE THE GHOST
YOU WANT US TO EXTERMINATE THE GHOST BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER'S SCARS GET ANY WORSE, RIGHT?
HURRY UP AND CALL THAT GHOST OUT HERE!!
ARE YOU GOING TO...
BEAT IT UP...?
CALL IT OUT HERE...?
WHAT HE MEANS IS...
TO PUT IT SIMPLY
YOU JUST HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE GHOST HAUNTING YOUR DAUGHTER AND PICTURE IT IN YOUR MIND.
I JUST HAVE TO PICTURE IT...?
LIKE WHEN YOU'RE LYING ON YOUR BED IN THE DARK,
AND YOU'RE ALL ALONE,
YOU CAN'T HELP FEELING SCARED AND START THINKING ABOUT THE GHOST...

OR COULD IT BE THAT IT'S ACTUALLY SOMETHING ELSE
THAT CAUSES THE GHOST TO APPEAR?
OBVI-OUSLY.
IF FUTABA DID IT THE SAME WAY AS THAT GRADE SCHOOL TEACHER,
THEN SHE PROBABLY LEFT THE IMAGE OF THE GHOST DEEP WITHIN THIS GIRL'S MIND
HURRY UP AND APPEAR YOU STUPID FAKE GHOST.
I'M GONNA PAY YOU BACK IN FULL FOR WASTING MY PRECIOUS TIME.
.....

!!
THERE YOU ARE!!

AGEHA !!
THE IMAGE IS STILL TOO WEAK, I CAN'T DESTROY IT!!
DON'T WORRY, I'M TAKING CARE OF IT!
THIS DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING..
...?
GINJI! BEHIND YOU!
THERE..!
IS MY ABILITY TO PROJECT THE IMAGE GETTING WEAKER ?
I KNOW I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A CLEARER IMAGE OF THE GHOST THE LAST TIME ....
.....
THAT DAMN FUTABA

FINAL-
LY!!
NOW I'M GONNA BEAT YOU TILL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT!!
ドクッ

TWITCH
...NO...
NOOOOOO!!

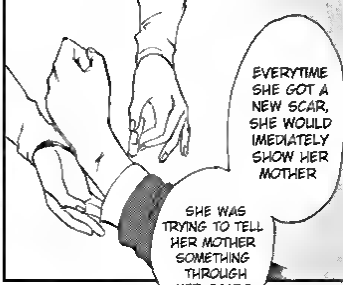
THERE I'VE DESTROYED THE GHOST FOR YOU!
AGEHA?
MIWA!!
MIWA...!?

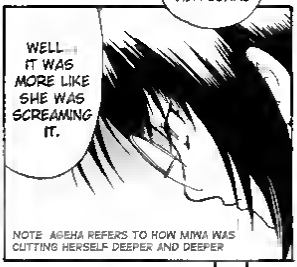
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT MIWA DID ALL THOSE SCARS TO HERSELF!?
YOU SAW IT FOR YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU? TAKEUCHI-SAN?
IF I DIDN'T STOP HER, SHE WOULD HAVE STARTED CUTTING HERSELF AGAIN
BUT WHY WOULD SHE DO SUCH A THING...?
FUTABA... IT'S BECAUSE SHE SAW THE GHOST THAT MY IMPOSTOR LEFT BEHIND THAT SHE'S DOING THIS TO HER-SELF
BEFORE THAT, SHE WAS ONLY PUTTING LIGHT SCRATCHES ON HER BODY.
BUT WHEN THAT GHOST APPEARED, HER CUTS BECAME DEEPER.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOURSELF THAT SINCE SEEING THE GHOST, NEW SCARS HAVE BEEN FREQUENTLY APPEARING ON MIWA-SAN'S BODY?

YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED ME!
I WANT TO KNOW WHY MIWA WOULD DO THAT TO HERSELF!
MOST LIKELY...
SHE HAS SOMETHING SHE WANTS TO SAY, BUT SHE CAN'T SAY IT.
AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
BASICALLY... SHE HAS A SECRET THAT SHE CAN'T SAY DIRECTLY,
BUT SHE CAN'T STAND KEEPING IT WITHIN HERSELF ANY LONGER
THOSE SCARS ON HER...
ARE AN INDIRECT WAY OF HER CONFESSING HER SECRET
AND PUNISHING HERSELF FOR HER GUILT...
YOU SAID THAT HER SCARS STARTED APPEARING AROUND THREE MONTHS AGO,
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN IN THIS HOUSE AROUND THAT TIME?
.....
IT'S A PRIVATE MATTER...

I DON'T MIND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT IT.
BUT MY GUARDIAN SPIRIT TELLS ME THAT I SHOULD AT LEAST ASK...
WHO WAS IT THAT USED TO STAY IN THIS ROOM?

WHAT WAS THAT CRAP ABOUT A GUARDIAN SPIRIT, YOU DAMN LIAR...
WELL... I AM A SPECIALIST IN EXTERMINATING SPIRITS,
I FIGURED MOST EXORCISTS SAY THINGS LIKE THAT
SO I JUST THOUGHT I'D SAY SOMETHING CHARACTER-LIKE ONCE IN A WHILE
AND YOU SAID IT SO CASUALLY
SO? ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT'S SO SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THAT ROOM WE WERE IN?
I TOLD YOU I SAW AN IMAGE OF A DEAD PERSON INSIDE TAKEUCHI MIWA'S MIND, DIDN'T I?
THE GLIMPSE OF THAT IMAGE HAPPENED WHEN WE ENTERED THAT ROOM.
WHEN WE FIRST CAME TO VISIT THIS HOUSE AND PASSED THROUGH THAT ROOM,
SHE GOT SCARED.
IT WAS AS IF SHE SAW SOMEONE...
TO STOP THAT GIRL FROM HARMING HERSELF ANY-MORE,
I HAD TO EXPOSE HER SECRET IN FRONT OF HER MOTHER
HER MOM...?


EVERYTIME SHE GOT A NEW SCAR, SHE WOULD IMEDIATELY SHOW HER MOTHER
SHE WAS TRYING TO TELL HER MOTHER SOMETHING THROUGH HER SCARS

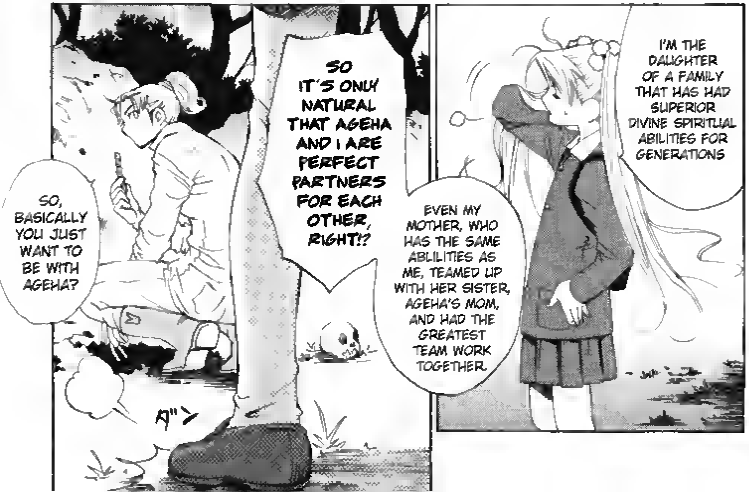


NOTE: AGEHA REFERS TO HOW MIWA WAS CUTTING HERSELF DEEPER AND DEEPER

OOSAKA - THE NARUO HOUSE
I WAS WONDERING, FUTABA.
WHY DO YOU ENJOY CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR AGEHA SO MUCH?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, ITSUKI.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!!
YOU KNOW... IN LOVE, THE ONE WHO CAN'T LET GO IS USUALLY THE ONE WHO LOSES OUT, SO WHY DON'T YOU GROW UP AND GET OVER IT?

NNGAA!!
IT'S THE MONKEY SKULL I BURIED LAST YEAR! THIS WILL MAKE A GREAT MUMMY!
LOOK HOW GOOD IT TURNED OUT---!!
LOOK---!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT LOVE FOR.
WHA---

I'M GONNA TELL GRANDPA AND GRANDMA IF YOU DON'T QUIT IT!
DAMMIT! YOU BURIED SUCH A THING IN THE GARDEN AGAIN?
WHERE DID YOU EVEN GET THAT!?


SO, BASICALLY YOU JUST WANT TO BE WITH AGEHA?
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT AGEHA AND I ARE PERFECT PARTNERS FOR EACH OTHER, RIGHT!?
EVEN MY MOTHER, WHO HAS THE SAME ABILITIES AS ME, TEAMED UP WITH HER SISTER, AGEHA'S MOM, AND HAD THE GREATEST TEAM WORK TOGETHER.
I'M THE DAUGHTER OF A FAMILY THAT HAS HAD SUPERIOR DIVINE SPIRITUAL ABILITIES FOR GENERATIONS

WHY YOU...
YOU JUST WANT TO BE THE ONE BY AGEHA'S SIDE, RIGHT?
BUT WHY DON'T YOU AT LEAST GO SEE THAT "LOSER"?
I JUST DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF SOME LOSER THAT I'VE NEVER MET OR SEEN BEFORE PARTNERING UP WITH HER!
I...
SHE EVEN GOT CHEWING GUM FOR HIM!
ISHIKAWA GINJI... YOU PROBABLY WON'T LIKE HIS LOOKS, BUT MAYBE YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH HIS PERSONALITY?
YEAH, YEAH
HE'S NOT GOOD LOOKING?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"
I'D TAKE HIM TO AGEHA
IF I DO THIS IT SORTA REMINDS ME OF HIM
.....

MIW...!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO ACCOMPANY US...
IF THEY PERFORM AN EXORCISM ON ME..
THEN I WON'T HURT MYSELF ANYMORE, RIGHT...?
I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL LOOKING LIKE THIS...
WHICH MEANS.. I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE... MY FRIENDS ANYMORE...
EVEN IN MY OWN HOME I FEEL AFRAID...
IF THIS GOES ON I THINK I'LL GO CRAZY.
SO PLEASE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU STILL AREN'T FEELING WELL
JUST GO AND REST... OKAY?
THESE PEOPLE ARE DONE HERE AND ARE ABOUT TO LEAVE
TAKE-UCHI-SAN
IF WE LEAVE NOW, YOUR DAUGHTER'S SCARS AREN'T GOING TO STOP.
THE STRESS ON HER BODY IS GOING TO ESCALATE AND SHE WILL EVENTUALLY DIE...
STOP TRYING TO SCARE HER!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU SPIRITUALIST DEAL WITH GHOSTS,
BUT DON'T THINK THAT YOU CAN TELL LIVING PEOPLE WHAT TO DO!!
MIWA!!
COME, MIWA-SAN.
I'LL REMOVE THE POISON THAT REMAINS INSIDE YOU.

MI-WA!!
LET'S BEGIN
IS SOMETHING GONNA APPEAR?
IS IT GONNA BE WHOEVER USED TO BE IN THIS ROOM?
IT'S HERE, TAKEUCHI-SAN

THIS IS A DEAD PERSON
IT'S THE SECRET THAT MIWA-SAN HAS BEEN KEEPING DEEP INSIDE HER HEART

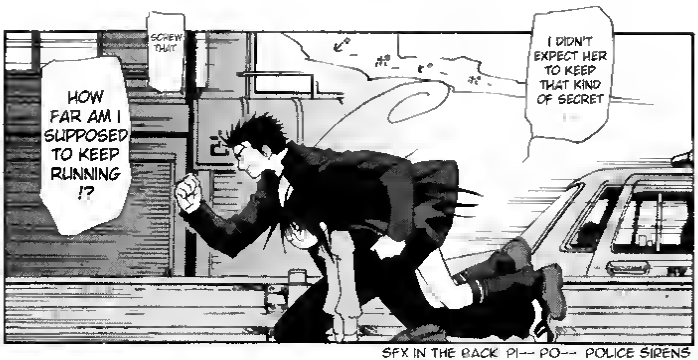
THIS DEAD PERSON ...
IS THE SECRET THAT MIWA-SAN HAS KEPT DEEP INSIDE HER HEART.

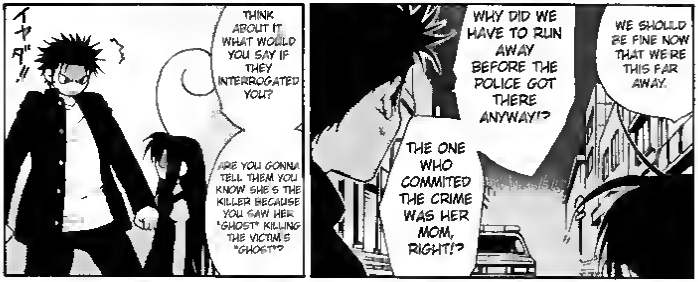
THIS IS HER SEC-RET?
WHO THE HELL IS THIS OLD MAN, ANYWAY?
....
DOES HE... LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
MY ...
MY GRAND-FATHER ...
HE IS ...

IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S MORE TO THE SECRET...
SHUT UP!
YOUR GRAND FATHER DIED?
THAT'S THE REASON YOU'VE BEEN CUTTING YOURSELF?
?
THAT'S KIND OF A WEIRD WAY TO BE SLEEPING...
IT CAN'T BE...
MIWA...
I'M SO SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
I...
DID YOU...?
HUH?

スウ
WHAT THE ...!?
THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON APPEARING ...!?
GARI GARI = SFX – HIS HANDS ARE SCRATCHING AT THE GROUND
GA RI GA RI
GA RI
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT PERSON DOING?!
WHA ...
GA RI
GA RI
GA RI
THE PERSON WHO'S PUSHING YOUR GRANDFATHER'S FACE INTO THE PILLOW LOOKS JUST LIKE ...
GA RI
GA RI

YOU SAW...
...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SAW ME DO THAT, MIWA...
THIS IS THE SECRET YOU'VE BEEN HIDING?!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS-
AGEHA !!!
THIS IS A PROB-LEM.
WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMETHING A LOT MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT...


SCREW THAT
HOW FAR AM I SUPPOSED TO KEEP RUNNING!?
I DIDN'T EXPECT HER TO KEEP THAT KIND OF SECRET
SFX IN THE BACK PI--- PO--- POLICE SIRENS


イヤ
PI"!!
THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF THEY INTERROGATED YOU?
ARE YOU GONNA TELL THEM YOU KNOW SHE'S THE KILLER BECAUSE YOU SAW HER "GHOST" KILLING THE VICTIM'S "GHOST"?
WHY DID WE HAVE TO RUN AWAY BEFORE THE POLICE GOT THERE ANYWAY!?
WE SHOULD BE FINE NOW THAT WE'RE THIS FAR AWAY.
THE ONE WHO COMMITED THE CRIME WAS HER MOM, RIGHT!?

MIWA WANTED TO SAY IT. BUT SHE COULDN'T
IT WAS A SECRET SO DARK SHE STARTED CUTTING HERSELF TO LET IT OUT
DID SHE REALLY HAVE TO GO THAT FAR?
BUT I'M GLAD WE DESTROYED THOSE IMAGES BEFORE THE PATROL CAR GOT THERE
YEAH, DESTROYING THREE OF THEM IN ONE DAY LEFT ME EXHAUSTED
PI PO
PI PO

IT SEEMS THAT BEFORE THE INCIDENT, THE TAKEUCHI HOUSEHOLD WAS HAVING PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN
IT WAS AROUND 3 MONTHS AGO THAT TAKEUCHI MIWA'S GRANDFATHER DIED IN HIS SLEEP...
THE MOTHER WAS SO BUSY TAKING CARE OF THE OLD MAN THAT SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY TIME AT ALL FOR HER OWN FAMILY.
FIRST, IT WAS MIWA WHO WAS SO LONELY THAT SHE RAN AWAY
REALLY? I NEVER WOULD'VE FIGURED THAT OUT. SHE LOOKED SO INNOCENT TO ME...
WHEN I LOOKED INTO HER MIND, IT SEEMS THAT SHE WAS DOING SOME "QUESTIONABLE" STUFF IN THE TOWN.
DURING HER IMAGE, I DIDN'T SEE HER FATHER ANYWHERE, SO HE MAY HAVE LEFT THE HOUSE WHEN IT HAPPENED
JUST REMEMBERING IT SCARES ME!
SO THE MOTHER WHO WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE STRESS OF WATCHING HER FAMILY FALL APART COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE AND SUFFOCATED THE OLD MAN, HUH?
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE DID IT WHILE THE SUN WAS STILL UP."
"MEANING SHE DID IT WHILE HE WAS TAKING A NAP, NOT DURING THE NIGHT
THE REAL PROBLEM WAS THAT HER OWN DAUGHTER, MIWA, SAW THE WHOLE THING

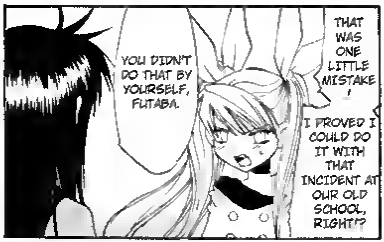
A MOTHER WHO WANTED TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE LOST TIME WITH HER DAUGHTER BY SHOWING HER LOVE AND CARE...
AND A RUN-AWAY WHO WAS YEARNING FOR HER MOTHER'S AFFECTION
EVEN THOUGH SHE WANTED TO SHE COULDN'T SAY IT
THAT SHE SAW HER OWN MOTHER KILL HER GRAND-FATHER
YEAH
SHE PROBABLY BLAMED THE WHOLE THING ON HERSELF AND THOUGHT NONE OF IT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF SHE HADN'T RUN AWAY
I DON'T THINK SO
BUT YOU NEVER KNOW... IF WE HADN'T SHOWN UP
THEY PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE A HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER
I THINK SHE'D CUT HERSELF UNTIL HER BODY COULDN'T TAKE IT AND DIE
IF WE NEVER CAME, THAT MIWA GIRL WOULD BE DEAD

SOMETIMES THE OVERWHELMING TRUTH CAN DESTROY A PERSON'S DELUSIONS
DESTROY THEIR DELUSIONS ?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT OUR WORK WAS DESTROYING FANTASIES THAT PEOPLE BELIEVE IN.
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHY YOUR BROTHER KILLED HIMSELF, DON'T YOU?
BE HONEST, GENJI
BUT KNOWING THE TRUTH CAN SOMETIMES END UP HURTING YOU
IS THAT ... WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF?
WHETHER HE REALLY DID KILL THAT LITTLE GIRL
OR WHETHER IT REALLY WAS A CURSE THAT CAUSE YOUR BROTHER TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE

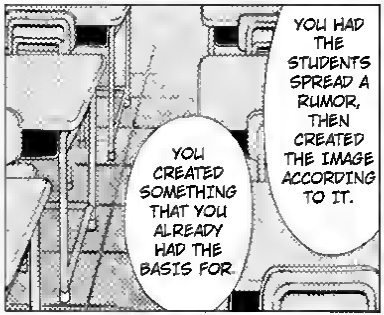
I JUST
NOOO
HE'S SO UGLY--!!
HOW COULD YOU PICK THAT GORILLA OVER ME?!
I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING !!!
ダーン
ダーン
SFX PUI - SHE'S IGNORING ASEHA
EH-? FUTABA?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE ...?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE HERE TO....
ぷいっ

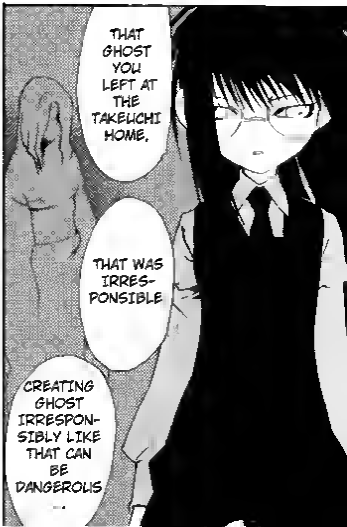
YOU!!
NOW NOW, CALM DOWN.
HE'S NOT A GORILLA HE'S MORE LIKE A CHIMPANZEE
SO YOU'RE THAT FUTABA BRAT, EH?!
HMPH!
WE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE OF YOU!!
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO APOLOGIZE
BE-SIDES
YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW WHY I STOPPED BEING PARTNERS WITH YOU
SHE WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO DESTROY THEM ?
EVEN HER BEST WAS BARELY ENOUGH TO DESTROY IT
THERE WOULD ALWAYS BE "REMAINS" LEFT OVER
FUTABA WAS THE SAME AS YOU. HER ROLE WAS TO DESTROY THE GHOSTS THAT I CREATED
BUT AS TIME PASSED HER ABILITY TO DESTROY MY GHOSTS BEGAN TO WEAKEN UNTIL SHE FINALLY COULDN'T DO IT
LISTEN GENJI!

BASICALLY ... BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T WANT TO DESTROY GHOSTS ANYMORE, HER ABILITY TO DO IT GO WEAKER.
CREATING GHOSTS AND DESTROYING GHOSTS ALL DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH OF YOUR IMAGE ABILITY

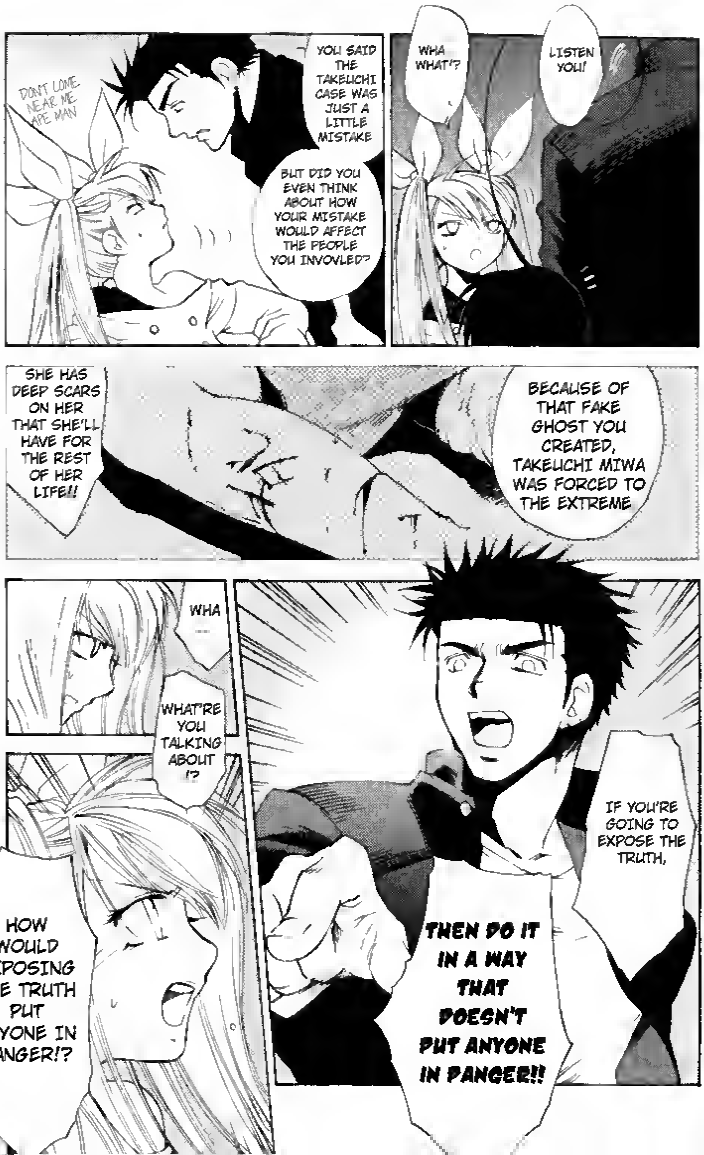

YOU DIDN'T DO THAT BY YOURSELF, FUTABA.
THAT WAS ONE LITTLE MISTAKE !
I PROVED I COULD DO IT WITH THAT INCIDENT AT OUR OLD SCHOOL, RIGHT!?

I DIDN'T BECOME WEAK.
I JUST WASN'T MYSELF THAT TIME!


YOU HAD THE STUDENTS SPREAD A RUMOR, THEN CREATED THE IMAGE ACCORDING TO IT.
YOU CREATED SOMETHING THAT YOU ALREADY HAD THE BASIS FOR.


THAT GHOST YOU LEFT AT THE TAKEUCHI HOME.
THAT WAS IRRES-PONSIBLE.
CREATING GHOST IRRESPON-SIBLY LIKE THAT CAN BE DANGEROUS ...

THE ONE WHO REALLY GAVE THE GHOST FORM WAS INOUE-SENSEI. SHE'S THE ONE WHO ASKED AROUND AND FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE DEAD STUDENT


DON'T COME NEAR ME, HATE MAN
YOU SAID THE TAKEUCHI CASE WAS JUST A LITTLE MISTAKE
BUT DID YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT HOW YOUR MISTAKE WOULD AFFECT THE PEOPLE YOU INVOLVED?
WHA WHAT!?
LISTEN YOU!
SHE HAS DEEP SCARS ON HER THAT SHE'LL HAVE FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE!!
BECAUSE OF THAT FAKE GHOST YOU CREATED, TAKEUCHI MIWA WAS FORCED TO THE EXTREME
WHA
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
HOW WOULD EXPOSING THE TRUTH PUT ANYONE IN DANGER!?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO EXPOSE THE TRUTH,
THEN DO IT IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T PUT ANYONE IN DANGER!!

I CREATED THE GHOST THAT THE FAMILY WANTED TO BELIEVE IN!
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO EXPOSED THE MOTHER AS A MURDERER! THE REASON THE TAKEUCHI FAMILY IS IN A MESS RIGHT NOW IS YOUR FAULT!
YEAH WELL
WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS

GIVE US BACK THE MONEY THAT YOU STOLE!!
HEY! DON'T THROW IT!!!
SMACK

ARE WE FINALLY GOING HOME?
YOU GRADE SCHOOL BRATS HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME, HUH?
THAT DAMN LITTLE BRAT FUTABA ...
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY TO THE SHINKANSEN STATION JUST TO TELL ME SHE HATES ME.
I ENDED UP MISSING FOUR DAYS OF SCHOOL ...
IT'S NOT BE THAT
BUT WHY DID YOU GET OFF AT THIS STATION? ISN'T THE NEXT STATION A LOT CLOSER TO YOUR HOUSE?
....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
HATAKE-YAMA ...?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
DID YOU FORGET?
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING BACK TODAY, REMEMBER?

SO YOU'RE HERE TO WELCOME US? THAT'S REALLY WEIRD, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, WELL, THERE'S RUMORS GOING AROUND SCHOOL THAT YOU DROPPED OUT.
I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.
GOOD JOB!

LET'S SEE... WE SPENT A NIGHT IN NAGOYA, DID AN ALL-NIGHTER IN YAMAMATSU, EXTERMINATED SOME GHOSTS FROM A HOTEL IN NAGOYA
DID IT GET "EXCITING" WHEN YOU TWO WERE ALONE?
"EXCITING"? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT? A POOR NEWLYWED COUPLE'S HONEYMOON?

HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE A GIRL
WERE YOU TOGETHER WITH THAT KID THE WHOLE TIME?
YEAH...
I WAS.

... THE SAME GOES FOR ME.
THE NEXT STATION IS A LOT CLOSER TO MY HOUSE, BUT I STILL GET OFF AT THIS ONE.
... AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED
YOU STILL GET OFF AT THIS STATION, HUH?
IT SEEMS LIKE WE'RE ALL STILL TRAPPED IN THE PAST ...
MY-SELF,
YOU,
AND EVEN TAKAMATSU NACHI ...
EVER SINCE THAT INCIDENT WITH YOUR BROTHER ...
WHERE HE SUPPOSEDLY KILLED THAT LITTLE GIRL ...
I'VE NEVER SET FOOT IN THAT TRAIN STATION SINCE THEN ...

...
HUH?
GENJI
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD YOU CALL ME BY MY NAME, YOU KNOW THAT?
GEN-JI,
YOU'VE BEEN USING KOUJI'S ROOM AS YOUR OWN, HAVEN'T YOU?
HOW DID YOU ...?
GOOD POINT.
AND NOW YOU'RE THE ONLY ISHIKAWA THAT'S LEFT...
YEAH
KOUJI AND YOU
WELL, BACK THEN, THERE WERE TWO ISHIKAWA'S THAT I KNEW...
BUT IT ISN'T THE REGULAR KIND OF PHOTO
GOOD FOR YOU
YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS PHOTO OF KOUJI THAT I'VE KEPT WITH ME.
I JUST TOLD YOU,
IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF PHOTO.
I'M SCARED EVEN JUST TO SHOW IT TO YOU.
YOU THINK YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK AT IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHY WOULD I NEED COURAGE TO LOOK AT A PHOTO?

"IT'S LIKE I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE..."
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ON
THIS IS WHY I'M IN-DEBTED TO YOU.
IF I STAY QUIET ABOUT THIS ANY LONGER, I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP
"KNOWING THE TRUTH CAN SOMETIMES END UP HURTING YOU..."
BECAUSE THIS COULD END UP BREAKING OUR FRIENDSHIP
I SAID THAT YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO SEE THIS.
"IS THAT..."
WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF?"
QUIT IT.
HATAKE-YAMA
THE REASON I CARRY THIS PHOTO WITH ME
ISN'T JUST BECAUSE IT HAS KOUJI IN IT.

IT'S ALSO ...
THE FIRST TIME I ...
SAW THE BODY OF A DEAD PERSON.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE ONE SINCE I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL
THE ONE WHO BROUGHT UP THE THAT IT'D BE FUN IF A LITTLE GIRL DIED
AND THE ONE WHO INSPIRED KOUJI, WAS ME.

TO BE CONTINUE

- CHATPER 18, VOLUME 2 END -

Hidoi~! Translators Recruitment

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